

U.N. hears call for tightening monitoring of Iraq weapons

UNITED NATIONS (USIA) — Members of the U.N. Security Council said Friday that new revelations about Iraq's weapons programmes have scuttled any talk of lifting sanctions, especially the oil embargo, against Baghdad in the foreseeable future and will require adjustments in the U.N.'s long-term monitoring plans.

Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission overseeing the destruction of Iraq's chemical, biological, nuclear, and ballistic missile programmes (UNSCOM), told the council that new information gathered in the past six months shows that Iraq had kept secret a major biological weapons programme and its ability to produce indigenous Scud-type missiles.

He met with the council to discuss the written report of UNSCOM's activities for the past six months, which was given to council members earlier in the week. The report spells out the details of the discoveries that had been revealed piecemeal since April in what has been described as the one of the "most significant periods" of work since the commission was founded at the end of the Gulf war in 1991.

Much of the recently gathered information contradicts earlier declarations by Iraq and requires UNSCOM assessments to be revised, according to the report.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said that "by all indications (the report) shows that Iraq has cheated and lied in terms of its dealings with the United Nations and the international community."

Iraq admitted to UNSCOM that in the summer of 1991 orders were issued by a "high authority" to directors of the weapons sites to "protect important documents" by packing them quickly and delivering them on demand to special security agents. "Iraq's original claim that all documentation was destroyed is thus patently false," the report states.

UNSCOM doubts that the material turned over in August represents all of the documents. "Much more documentation must still exist, particularly in certain significant areas such as production records, Iraq's procurement networks, and sources of supply," according to the report.

At a press conference after his private meeting with the council, Mr. Ekeus said that his report is "disturbing in the sense that it indicates that Iraq has not... been cooperating in the spirit or according to the letter of 667 and other relevant resolutions."

"Iraq has kept secret a major weapons programme which was conceptualised, developed, and put into effect before the Gulf war; the large-scale production of a biological warfare agent. Also highly significant is that (the agent) was put into delivery systems — bombs and warheads for long-range missiles; furthermore they were deployed for use at various launching points."

Iraq also produced Scud-type engines, put them into

some missiles, and successfully completed test flights, he said, noting, "That means that in addition to imports from the (former) Soviet Union it has managed to independently augment its capability. That has created some serious problems in regard to counting the number of missiles actually destroyed and assuring the international community that Iraq is complying with the U.N. resolutions."

"We now know Iraq had chemical... and biological warheads. That means (Iraq had) strategic capabilities of considerable significance. The matter of warheads, mobile launchers, the matter of mobile missiles are a matter of increased risk and problems," Mr. Ekeus said.

Mr. Ekeus said UNSCOM has other problems as well: verifying that Iraq actually destroyed the biological agents and weapons it said it did in 1991, determining if there are Scud-type missiles that have not been destroyed, accounting for the huge amounts of precursor chemicals for a very potent nerve agent, and verifying if there are any chemical and biological warheads remaining.

"We are not satisfied. We have to investigate. We have concerns because there were bombs filled with such agents, Iraq has aircraft to deliver such bombs. We know if there are missile warheads left in Iraq, Iraq has been seriously misleading us," Mr. Ekeus said.

Both Security Council members and U.N. officials are concerned because while Iraq turned over about one million pages of documents in August, its actions came not from a change in policy but because of the defection of General Hussein Kamel, the head of Iraq's weapons programmes. Iraq has blamed Kamel for withholding the information from the U.N. for four and a half years.

The report shows essentially how far away Iraq is from cooperating with the United Nations, diplomats said. Essentially what UNSCOM learned came about because of a defection which could not be anticipated. It casts even greater doubt about how much UNSCOM really knows about Iraq's activities and suggests that the current U.N. monitoring system needs to be tightened, the number of monitored sites increased, and new equipment added.

Mr. Ekeus, while agreeing that the monitoring and verification system will need to be adjusted to accommodate programmes that were larger than previously thought, pointed out that the system is working and is "very robust and sound."

It detected the purchase of large amounts of "growth medium" that pointed to Iraq's large biological weapons programme, thereby eventually compelling Iraq to release documents showing just how advanced the programme was, he said. The monitoring programme also detected Iraq's movement of equipment that could be converted to chemical weapons production.

Queen visits Mukheibeh, Umm Qais

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Saturday visited Irbid Governorate, in particular the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Quality of Life Project at Mukheibeh village and Umm Qais. The Queen visited the basket weaving and furniture production centre as well as the bee keeping, citrus fruit cultivation and organic soil production projects.

The centre, which is supervised by the National Jordan Design and Trade Centre (JDTC), was established in 1993 to train village women to weave baskets and upholster furniture using raw materials indigenous to the region such as banana and palm leaves as well as the alfalfa plant. The centre, in cooperation with JDTC, will be expanded to produce and upholster light furniture.

Queen Noor toured the Department of Antiquities restoration project at Umm Qais, where three late 19th



Her Majesty Queen Noor on Saturday visits a restoration project at Umm Qais, where three late 19th century buildings were renovated and transformed into a museum, an archaeological dig house and Ministry of Tourism on-site offices.

Ashrawi: Polls key to Palestinian state

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Hannan Ashrawi, the former spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks and the founder of the Palestinian Independent Commission on Citizens' Rights, came to Washington to express her views on the recent interim agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis and the difficult path which still lies ahead for the Palestinian people.

Speaking at a press conference hosted by the National Association of Arab-Americans Oct. 13, Dr. Ashrawi stressed the importance of the elections which the interim agreement will make possible, perhaps as early as next March. Elections are a key component of nation-building, she said, one of the fundamental expressions of the democratic process. They are also a way of empowering people, Dr. Ashrawi said of the vote for the 82-member Palestinian council and chief executive.

But given all the obstacles which the Palestinians are facing, Dr. Ashrawi said that she was not expecting miracles. But she expected members of Hamas to be included and expressed hope that a sufficient number of women would be elected. Above all, she said, the election needs to produce people of high moral fiber.

Even before the elections, a good deal of attention must be paid to the pre-election process, she said. One of the keys to this is developing a free press, she said, adding that in her opinion, the Palestinian press was not yet entirely free of external and internal restrictions. While praising the Palestinian television station for having permitted fair and open discussions to be aired, she expressed concern about its recent closure.

The presence of Israeli troops on the West Bank and in Gaza continues to be a major impediment to free and fair elections, Dr. Ashrawi said. For this reason, she favours a strong international presence there. "We need observation," she stated.

The bulk of her talk focused on the peace process and the "painful" road which lies ahead for the Palestinian people. "Nobody ever promised us a rose garden and we

don't have one." Among her many objections to the current transition phase in which the Palestinians find themselves is the fact that the Israelis continue to control the border crossings. Israeli restrictions on the free circulation of the Palestinians have led to their fragmentation and will continue to "create quite a lot of problems," she said.

The lack of specific timetables for the elections and the redeployment of Israeli forces is also a serious concern to her. The terms of the Interim Accord, she said, give the Israelis the right to determine when these will occur. It will take a tremendous amount of goodwill to implement decisions under such circumstances, she said.

Dr. Ashrawi noted that the Palestinians have begun to lose their enthusiasm for the overall peace process. There has been, she said, "an erosion of support." Many people believe that the fragmented conditions the Palestinian Authority accepted in the interim agreement will become permanent.

"The agreement in itself is one of the most complex, difficult, unwieldy agreements in history," she commented.

Dr. Ashrawi was somewhat critical of the United States for taking a comparatively "hands-off" approach to the peace process. While conceding that the strategic relationship between the U.S. and Israel limited the extent to which the country could be even-handed, she called on Washington to make Israel comply with human rights issues such as the release of all Palestinian prisoners. "The U.S. is too powerful a country to be a spectator," she commented.

Dr. Ashrawi also called upon the U.S. to pressure the Israelis on the settlements question. In addition, she urged Washington to make its funding more effective. "We haven't seen concrete projects yet," she stated. The Palestinians can do without five or six different organisations talking to them about democracy; most of the money thus far has gone to U.S. organisations, she added.

Jordanian lawyers want to defend Egyptian Brothers

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of nine Jordanian political parties and the Jordanian Bar Association on Saturday sent a message to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak requesting that the Egyptian authorities facilitate the mission of 12 Jordanian lawyers who have volunteered to defend Muslim Brotherhood members standing trial by a military court in Cairo.

The message, a copy of which was sent to the Jordan Times, said that the 12 lawyers, who include two Christians, believe that the people on trial are prominent political, social and professional personalities in Egypt and that they believe it is their duty to join the efforts for their defence.

President Mubarak had ordered the trial by a military tribunal of 49 Brotherhood members who he had accused of being behind militant attacks in Egypt. The group on trial are also accused of directing illegal organisation

aiming at impeding the rule of law and the Egyptian constitution. Late last month a group of four British barristers said they were to attend the trial, which began on Sept. 16, to help the defence.

According to the Jordanian political parties' letter the 12 lawyers are: Hussein Mjalli, Salim Sweis, Saleh Armouti, Rabea Jundeid, Ziyad Khasawneh, Adib Hawatme, Salim Zoubi, Zuhair Abul Ragheb, Ziyad Khalifeh, Faris Nabulsi, Mamoun Milkawi and Badran Khaled.

Apart from the nine parties, the letter was signed by the Jordan Bar Association and a number of Jordanian political personalities and also by Parliament Member Hamzeh Mansour, an Islamist.

The message was forwarded to the Egyptian president through Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Wajih Hamdi.

Yemen does not seek forgiveness from Gulf

SANAA (R) — Yemen said on Saturday its ties with Kuwait, marked by more than five years of mistrust, had improved but Sanaa would not seek anyone's forgiveness over its stance in the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

"Our ties with Kuwait are brotherly and excellent, but some clouds are still hanging on, both in Yemen and in Kuwait," said Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh in a news conference.

In what diplomats said was a reference to demands by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for explicit apologies by "supporters" of Iraq during the Gulf crisis, Mr. Saleh said: "Yemen will not seek forgiveness from anybody."

Yemen, then a Security Council member, voted against a resolution for the use of force to dislodge Iraqi forces from Kuwait, a move seen as sympathising with Baghdad and costing it hundreds of millions of dollars from Gulf states.

Mr. Saleh, speaking on the 32nd anniversary of the uprising against British occupation in former South Yemen, called for the lifting of U.N. economic sanctions imposed on Iraq following the Kuwait invasion.

"If mistakes (by the Iraqi leadership) had been committed, what is the crime of the Iraqi people?" he asked.

Mr. Saleh, whose country in the past has been accused by some Arab countries of giving refuge to extremists, said: "Yemen does not accept any kind of extremism in any form."

But he added that between 1990, when North and South Yemen were merged, and 1994, when his troops quelled a southern separatist bid, "some extremist Muslim forces entered Yemen."

"We are now in the process of returning these forces to their original countries," he said but gave no names or figures.

Asked if they included Algerian Adam Salahuddin, captured after a shootout in southern Yemen this month, Mr. Saleh said there was no extradition accord between Yemen and Algeria.

"He will receive fair treatment in Yemen," Mr. Saleh said.

Interior Minister Hussein Mohammad Arab has said Mr. Salahuddin, along with other alleged militants arrested with him, would be tried for resisting arrest and fomenting sectarianism.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Moderate earthquake hits Algeria

PARIS (R) — An earthquake measuring 3.6 on the open-ended Richter scale shook the Algerian town of Sig, 320 kilometres west of Algiers, early on Saturday, the Algerian official news agency APS said. APS said there was no damage or casualties.

Sudan Muslim leader criticises tourism

KHARTOUM (AFP) — An influential Muslim prayer leader has criticised government plans for promoting tourism in Sudan, charging it will bring anti-Islamic customs into the country, the Akhbar Al Yom daily said Saturday. It said Sheikh Al Tigani Siraj, the imam of Khartoum's grand mosque, criticised at Friday prayers a government-backed declaration by the minister of tourism declaring this year to promote tourism to boost revenues in this poor country. "The Sudanese people do not accept the introduction of on-Islamic customs and traditions brought in by tourists," he said, urging the government to reconsider the matter.

Bomb alert grounds Russian aircraft in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Airport authorities evacuated passengers and grounded Russian and Ukrainian aircraft Friday after an unknown caller claimed he had placed bombs on planes about to take off from Istanbul, the Anatolia news agency said. The caller contacted authorities at Istanbul's Ataturk airport at about 2 p.m. (midday GMT) claiming: "We have placed bombs on Russian aircraft which should take off in 15 minutes time." Three Russian and one Ukrainian aircraft were grounded during a search, but no bombs were found.

Rao due in Egypt today

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao leaves for Egypt on the first leg of an 11-day tour on Sunday which will include an address to the United Nations General Assembly in New York, officials said. Mr. Rao, who is leading a high-level delegation, is scheduled to hold one-to-one talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and sign three bilateral treaties on combating terrorism and stepping up scientific cooperation, they said. Mr. Rao and Mr. Mubarak are also expected to hold sweeping talks on the Middle East peace process and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), grouping 112 members, of which both countries are founding members. The Indian premier will leave for Cartagena in Colombia on Monday to attend the 11th Non-Aligned Movement summit which is expected to be attended by some 50 heads of state, they said. Mr. Rao will address the U.N. General Assembly on Oct. 24 during celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the world body, officials said.

Egyptian defence minister visits U.S.

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian Defence Minister Mohammad Hussein Tantawi left Cairo for the United States on Saturday for talks on strengthening military cooperation between the two countries, officials said. During his mission, General Tantawi will meet U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, members of Congress, and visit several U.S. military bases, they said. Washington is Cairo's biggest supplier of military assistance, providing Cairo with \$1.2 billion in military aid.

Payments approved for some Gulf crisis victims

GENEVA (USIA) — The United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) has authorised for payment all outstanding approved claims filed by victims of Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait for fixed amounts involving serious personal injury or the death of an immediate family member.

At its Oct. 9-11 session, the commission's governing council approved the payment of nearly 2,600 individual claims, with awards averaging \$3,200 per claimant. The awards will go to individuals in over 30 countries whose small claims against Iraq have been approved by the UNCC.

Edward Cummings, a U.S. delegate to the commission's governing council, described the vote to pay the claims as a "strong vote of confidence in the future of the UNCC and the claims process."

The dollar value of the claim awards is approximately \$8.3 million and will be paid from the UNCC Compensation Fund, which con-

tains a small amount of funds from frozen Iraqi assets and oil sale proceeds in various countries.

But the payment represents only a tiny fraction of the total claims against Iraq; the asserted value of the total claims is \$180 billion. Since its establishment in 1991 by the U.N. Security Council, the UNCC has received over 2.5 million claims from individuals, business entities, governmental agencies and international organisations.

UNCC claim awards are to be paid from a portion of the proceeds of future Iraqi oil sales, once Iraq complies with the Security Council's conditions for the lifting of economic sanctions and Iraqi oil exports are permitted to resume.

But U.S. officials say that until U.N. economic sanctions against Iraq are lifted and Iraqi oil exports resume, it is unlikely that the Compensation Fund will contain enough money to permit the payment of individual claims in other categories.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 The Filistines
14:30 Joshua Jones
14:45 Droopy Master Detective
15:00 Scientific Eye
15:30 Pugwall's Summer
16:00 I Love Lucy
16:30 Tarzan
17:00 Children's Programme — Cocotte Minute
17:30 Serie — Fruits Et Legumes
18:00 Comment
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Nurses
20:00 Cinema, Cinema
20:25 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:10 Murder She Wrote
22:00 News in English
22:25 CountersStrike
23:10 Return to Aden
00:30 Keeping Up Appearances

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr
05:35 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:22 Dhuhr
14:37 Asr
17:09 Maghreb
18:26 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swidieh, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrence Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Immaculation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 623526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 623428.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457.
The Lutheran Church Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 673691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin issued by the Department of Meteorology.
Fine weather conditions are expected to prevail becoming relatively cool at night with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 10/26
Aqaba 18/30
Dhahran 10/29
Jordan Valley 17/31

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 26, Aqaba 30, Hama
readings: Amman 28 per cent.
Aqaba 37 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mukheib Mazharab 820425
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab 758448
Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485
Dr. Yousef Rashed 896301
661912
770336
Abdali Pharmacy 637055
Nairokh Pharmacy 623672
Al Salam Pharmacy 636731
Shamsi Pharmacy 649455
Nairokh Pharmacy 637664
Najih Pharmacy 647632

IRBID:
Dr. Fayez Al Qadi 240743
Alquds Pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Salim Al Abi 981282
Khalifeh Pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630221
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 636301
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Ann

644281/6
Akilch Maternity, J. Ann. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malbas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664171/4
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845945
Al-Mushter Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajira 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 77511/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 66224050
Amal Hospital 667135
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)80560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)896733
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)99090
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)75555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72725
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia Int.

International Airport Tel. (08)53200-2, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
04:30 Bangkok (RJ)
07:45 Aqaba (RJ)
08:30 Jeddah (RJ)
08:55 Larnaca (RJ)
09:05 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:10 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
09:35 Beirut (RJ)
09:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:55 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
16:45 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
17:50 Paris (RJ)
17:50 London (RJ)
18:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:15 Athens (RJ)
19:40 Rome (RJ)
19:40 Vienna (RJ)
20:05 Frankfurt (add) (RJ)
20:40 Frankfurt (add) (RJ)
20:50 Munich (RJ)
23:30 Munich, Geneva (RJ)
00:30 Aqaba (RJ)
01:30 Damascus (add) (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:30 Aqaba (RJ)
05:40 Beirut (RJ)
08:30 Aqaba, Frankfurt (RJ)
09:35 Frankfurt (add) (RJ)
10:30 Vienna, Munich (RJ)
11:00 Vienna (RJ)
11:10 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:15 Rome (RJ)
11:15 Munich (RJ)
11:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:25 Athens (RJ)
20:20 Jeddah (RJ)
20:25 New Delhi (RJ)
20:45 Damascus (RJ)
21:00 Cairo (RJ)
21:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:45 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
21:50 Bangkok (RJ)
22:30 Damascus (add) (RJ)
22:45 Sanaa (RJ)
23:45 Aqaba (RJ)

Other flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 Sanaa (YI)
12:30 Beirut (ME)
13:30 Sanaa (YI)
15:05 Moscow (SU)
20:25 Cairo (MS)
00:05 Beirut, London (BA)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 210/150
Carrot 430/350
Cauliflower 330/230
Cucumbers (large) 300/100
Cucumbers (small) 300/150
Eggplant 300/200
Garlic 700/500
Grapes 680/480
Guava 500/400
Lemon 240/180
Marrow (large) 210/150
Marrow (small) 340/250
Okra 600/250
Olives (green) 330/230
Onion (dry) 230/120
Pepper (hot) 180/100
Pepper (sweet) 240/160
Pomegranate 360/260
Potato 300/200
Spinach 320/200
String Beans 800/600
Tomato 110/70

Major emerges from party conference with self-confidence

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major used his Conservative Party's annual conference to remind the opposition Labour Party, which is far ahead in the opinion polls, that he is still a force to be reckoned with.

Speaking with confidence and passion that often elude him, Mr. Major closed the conference Friday with a speech that drew on his own humble beginnings and was regarded as one of his best ever.

Political commentators from both left and right said his summer gamble in challenging critics to stand against him in a Conservative leadership election had paid off.

It also served as a warning that despite his party's 30 point deficit in the polls, Mr. Major cannot be written

off in the general election that must be held by mid-1997.

"In country and party alike, the prevailing view is that only a miracle can save the Conservatives at the next election. By the time he (Major) sat down, he had given reasonable hope for doubting the new common sense," the Independent said in an editorial Saturday.

The Daily Telegraph said Mr. Major "exuded a confidence which demonstrated his renewed grip on the Conservatives."

And Hugo Young, political writer with left-leaning Guardian newspaper, said Mr. Major had rescued a dismal week for the party with the modest, unmanufactured tone of his speech which "made his colleagues look like strutting pygmies."

The Conservative conference got off to an awkward start after last weekend's defection to Labour of former Junior Minister Alan Howarth, who accused his colleagues of arrogance after 16 years in power.

A jingoistic speech by Defence Secretary Michael Portillo which belittled Britain's European partners infuriated European Union leaders and annoyed some Conservatives.

Home Secretary Michael Howard angered judges by telling them to impose longer, tougher sentences on violent criminals.

Mr. Major pledged to lower taxes, put 5,000 more police on the streets and double the cash set aside to send poor children to private schools.

But it was the tone rather than the content of his

speech that impressed, boosting Mr. Major's image as a caring, decent man, proud of his father's struggle to keep alive a small business making garden gnomes.

"Some people have always found that very funny. I don't. I see the proud, stubborn, independent old man who... Taught me to love my country, fight for my own and spit in the eye of malign fate", Mr. Major said.

The Daily Telegraph commented that Labour, which has revamped its policies under young vibrant Tony Blair, must still be considered favourite to win the next election.

"But as others have discovered before, Mr. Major's powers of recovery should never be underestimated," it added.

Seoul cautions allies against improving ties with N. Korea

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korean Foreign Minister Gong Ro-Myung warned allies Friday to exercise caution in improving ties with isolationist North Korea.

The cautionary word came after South Korean President Kim Young-Sam was quoted earlier this week as saying improvements in Japan-North Korea ties could impede Seoul's own efforts at improving ties with the North.

Seoul considers the north's friendly gestures toward Japan and the United States as attempts to snub South Korea. The North considers its capitalist rival a U.S. puppet, and has rebuffed friendly gestures.

"We would like to see countries friendly to us to be more cautious," Mr. Gong said at a news briefing.

He added that rash attempts could affect the stability of the Korean peninsula, but did not elaborate.

Earlier this month, Tokyo successfully negotiated a deal to provide 200,000 tons of rice to North Korea on easy repayment terms, while a similar offer by Seoul had deadlocked.

Reports have said Tokyo and Pyongyang were also moving toward restarting

talks on normalising ties. The two countries currently do not recognise each other. North Korea has also reportedly invited Taiwan's vice economics minister to Pyongyang to improve trade ties. North Korea recognises Beijing, and does not have diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

Seoul cut off its own ties with Taiwan when it established diplomatic relations with Beijing in 1992.

With no peace treaty signed at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, the two Koreas remain technically at war.

In the past year, the North has called on Washington to negotiate a peace treaty. U.S.-led U.N. forces had fought on behalf of Seoul during the war.

While North Korea seeks to exclude Seoul from the peace process, South Korea has maintained that it is an integral part of any peace negotiations.

Meanwhile the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Friday that North Korea had refused to allow investigators to measure spent nuclear fuel to clear up discrepancies over plutonium levels.

IAEA Director General Hans Blix, who presented a report on North Korea to the U.N. Security Council Friday, said that North

Korean authorities were giving the IAEA only "tolerable cooperation" in access to its Nyongbyon plant.

North Korea has agreed to freeze its suspect nuclear programme in exchange for two light-water reactors provided by a U.S.-led consortium.

Negotiations for that are still going on in New York, and are scheduled to move to a higher level Monday.

Before the reactors are completed, North Korea must submit to IAEA inspection under a safeguards agreement to make sure Pyongyang develops no nuclear weapons in the meantime.

"They have not been willing to clarify the inconsistencies which we discovered when we concluded that there was more plutonium than they had declared," Mr. Blix said.

"So in this respect, our conclusion is that they are still in noncompliance with the safeguards agreement."

Mr. Blix said the North Koreans expressed willingness to study the list, but have given no reply.

He also said IAEA investigators wanted to examine plutonium levels in spent fuel as it came out of the Soviet-era graphite reactor North Korea says was used only for civilian purposes.

Gore urges U.S. to help Russia's reformers

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Vice President Al Gore made an impassioned plea Friday for America to help Russia's reformers and warned that congressional moves to cut off aid could lead to an ultra-nationalist backlash there.

Democracy and free markets are taking root so deeply in Russia that the transition from communism will be successful in the long run, Mr. Gore said in a speech at the Commonwealth Club, a current affairs forum.

But he said if the United States threatened Russia and Congress voted to cut off all aid before December parliamentary elections, "Then we will feed the forces of extremism there and we will greatly enhance the chances that ultra-nationalists will gain control, potentially, of their Duma (legislature)."

Mr. Gore said the United States had an interest in Russia's prosperity and a stake in the sovereignty of the newly-independent states of the former Soviet Union.

"An insecure and faltering Russia could become prey to simplistic political appeals for expansionism as the remedy for internal problems... We must help Russia's reformers preempt such regressive forces. Engagement is crucial," he said.

Mr. Gore urged U.S. officials and members of Congress "to seize this rare historical moment and rise to the great new challenge of American leadership, to keep America and American interests engaged in Russia and throughout the world."

The speech is the first of three Mr. Gore will give focusing on Russia before the summit between President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the United States later this month.

Mr. Gore said there were a "disturbing number of voices on Capitol Hill calling for America's retreat and disengagement from the world," some members of Congress wanted to severely reduce or eliminate parts of Mr. Clinton's assistance package to Russia, he said.

Sen. Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican who chairs a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee dealing with the package, has threatened to ban all assistance to Russia unless Russia cancels plans to sell a nuclear reactor to Iran, Mr. Gore said.

Mr. Gore said Mr. Clinton and he were working aggressively with Russia to try to prevent the reactor sale and he was optimistic a solution will be found.

Dmitri Trenin, of the Carnegie Endowment think-tank, said the Ministry of Defence was perhaps simply trying to "take the soldiers votes away from their favourite candidates," the Communists, or the ultra-nationalists of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.



Greek negotiator Dimitri Kepreos (left) and his Macedonian counterpart Lubomir Arsovski sign an agreement on the normalisation of relations between their two countries in the capital of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (AFP photo)

Greece lifts Macedonia embargo

ATHENS (AFP) — Greece lifted early Saturday an embargo it imposed on Macedonia 20 months ago in a move easing tension between the two Balkan states, but remains at loggerheads with the former Yugoslav republic over its name.

The economic blockade was lifted at midnight, the Greek government said in a communique. It had been in effect since Feb. 16, 1994.

It follows an accord signed on Sept. 13 in New York by Athens and Skopje to resolve differences over Macedonia's constitution, flag and name.

They signed a "memorandum" Friday in Skopje on measures to implement the New York agreement and "open a new era in relations between the two countries," an official Greek source told AFP.

The move centred on objections by Athens to the ex-Yugoslav republic calling itself Macedonia, the same name as that of northern

Greek province, and to its flag and constitution which Greece claimed implied expansionist aims.

A Greek government source said that "drawing up practical measures ready to allow complete normal circulation will take two or three days" and that "talks on signing the memorandum were concluded at the last minute."

The pro-government Ta Nea paper in Skopje said the U.S. charge d'affaires had intervened Friday to speed up the process.

At the Evzones border post, a customs official said "no official directive to lift the embargo" had been sent to them. "We heard the news on the radios," he added, "but we are ready."

Extra teams of customs and border officials were Friday despatched to cope with the extra bureaucratic burden.

The only remaining problem is the name Macedonia itself. Greece refuses to recognise that name and

insists on calling its neighbour the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

That in turn poses bureaucratic issues which negotiators hope to resolve in a raft of talks on the theme beginning next week.

Meanwhile Greek business leaders welcomed the lifting of the embargo.

"We're expecting lots of businessmen to head toward Skopje Monday, to see around and make contacts," Haralambos Filadellis, deputy director of a Union of Industrialists in Salonica in northern Greece, told AFP.

"We should be reopening oil supplies as from next week," Jet Oil President Nikos Mamidakis said, with unrefined petroleum due to be delivered to a Skopje refinery which had to close during the embargo.

More than 90 per cent of Macedonian imports of oil before February 1994 went through Salonica. In 1993, Jet Oil supplied 1.5 million tonnes of it.

Comoros mercenaries in French custody

PARIS (R) — Mercenaries involved in the failed coup led by soldier of fortune Bob Denard in the Comoro Islands were placed in custody after being flown to France Saturday, Radio France Info reported.

The radio said they were taken into custody by French Gendarmes after landing in Paris aboard an air force C-160 aircraft.

No official confirmation of the report was immediately available.

Witnesses in the Comoros capital Moroni said Friday the mercenaries, including two women, were expelled

by the islands' government and led in handcuffs to a chartered French government aircraft.

The number of mercenaries has been variously put at between 25 and 35, nearly all of them French nationals.

Mr. Denard's mercenary force and army rebels overthrew the government of President Said Mohammed Djohar on Sept. 28, but the coup collapsed a week later after about 500 French soldiers intervened in "Operation Azalea".

Mr. Denard was flown to France last weekend and jailed for violating the terms of a five-year suspended prison sentence barring him from leaving the country without a judge's permission.

French troops took Mr. Djohar to the French Indian Ocean island of La Reunion, leaving Prime Minister Caabi Elyachrouh as interim head of state.

Mr. Djohar has said he wants to return home to continue ruling the Comoros and take part in presidential elections scheduled for next year.

Haiti premier to quit in rift with Aristide

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haitian Prime Minister Smarck Michel is resigning over policy differences with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a source close to Mr. Michel said Friday.

Michel submitted his letter of resignation Tuesday, but agreed to delay its effective date and an announcement until Monday, after the visits of U.S. Vice-President Al Gore and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

Mr. Gore and Dr. Ghali are due in Haiti this weekend to celebrate the first anniversary of Mr. Aristide's return from a three-year exile that followed a military coup.

Mr. Michel was disappointed Mr. Aristide failed to back him on an important economic plan, which he presented to sceptical colleagues at a cabinet meeting Monday, the source said.

The plan for restructuring the impoverished country's economy was contained in a letter to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Without that letter the country will miss out on much of \$100 million in promised aid and face a severe economic crisis, Mr. Michel told a news conference last month.

"There will be immediate consequences for everything, to pay for state salaries, to pay for education, to carry out projects," he said.

A spokeswoman for Mr. Aristide said it was inappropriate for the president to lobby for support of the plan, even though his prime minister considered it crucial.

"Mr. Aristide was clearly a referee and they (members of the cabinet) could not come to a consensus and sign a letter of intent," the spokeswoman told

reporters Friday. "The whole country is against privatisation as they perceive it right now."

The parliament is composed largely of Aristide allies from the Lavalas Movement where there are demands for changes in the plan which they fear could lead to greater unemployment.

Once Mr. Michel's resignation takes effect Monday, Mr. Aristide must choose a replacement. Leading contenders are Foreign Affairs Minister Claudette Werleigh and Planning Minister Jean-Marie Cherestal, a leading opponent of privatisation, observers said.

The plan to restructure the economy would require selling nine government-owned businesses, including the telephone and electrical companies, a concrete manufacturing plant and a flour mill.

Russia's Mikoyan wins contract to upgrade India's ageing MiG-21 fleet

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's Defence Ministry has awarded a prestigious \$468-million contract to Mikoyan of Russia to upgrade its ageing fleet of MiG-21 BIS fighter jets, the Pioneer newspaper said Saturday.

The daily cited unnamed ministry sources as saying that the planes would be equipped with state-of-the-

art equipment manufactured by U.S. and Israeli firms.

British, U.S., French and Israeli companies had been in the race for the contract, the daily said.

The Indian Air Force's insistence on Israeli equipment, particularly in the head-up display, which is integrated in the helmet the pilot wears, is primarily due to some of the (Israeli)

technological innovations being way ahead of the Americans.

"The Russians have agreed that while they would be paid for the total upgrade package, they would purchase U.S., British and Israeli equipment to integrate these into the aircraft," the sources said.

Thais brave floods to see Waterworld

BANGKOK. Thailand (AP) — They've seen more than enough water this year, but Thais continued to watch Friday to watch Waterworld, the Kevin Costner film about a loner's search for dry land in a world covered with water. Yet another thunderstorm in Bangkok Friday brought a reminder that while the movie may be a futuristic thriller for audiences elsewhere, it's not all that strange for Thais.

Especially bad monsoon floods the past three months have turned many streets across Thailand into shallow rivers; where pickups once charged, hastily-built wooden boats are paddled. The tide brings in pythons washed out of underground holes, along with farm crocodiles freed from overflooded pens.

"People in some flooded provinces might not want to see this movie," Prayoot Ketsomboon, a 25-year-old banker, said at a showing at Bangkok's Lido Theatre. "They might not want their houses to be under water for good as in the movie. They're already in bad straits."

Student Nantawan Champasert, 25, said some people may want to see the movie to find out how to deal with the floods. Said Chanya Boonchuay, a 28-year-old saleswoman, "those who have experienced the flooding, they may not want to see any movie, not just this one."

There may be a grain of truth to that in badly flooded areas like Nakhon Sawan province north of Bangkok. "If we show this movie in Nakhon Sawan, the residents may not come to see it because wherever they look, it's all floods, all water. They may not want to see anything about water," said an official in the marketing division of the film's distributor, United International Pictures.

Rap musician released on bail

LOS ANGELES (R) — Rap musician Tupac Shakur has been released from prison on \$1.4 million bail, just eight months after a judge sentenced him to a jail term of up to 4-1/2 years for sexual assault, his publicist said. "He's out on bail and here in Los Angeles. I had dinner with him last night," said George Pryce at Death Row Records, the controversial rap label that has just signed the singer.

Shakur, a multi-million selling "gangsta" rapper and occasional movie actor who goes by the stage name 2Pac, was handed a maximum 18-month to 4-1/2 year jail term in February for sexually assaulting a woman in a New York hotel room. Along with his road manager Charles Fuller, Shakur was convicted of the assault last December, but acquitted of the more serious charges of sodomy and criminal weapons possession. At sentencing, Judge Daniel Fitzgerald of Manhattan Supreme Court declined Shakur's request for bail pending an appeal.

Mr. Pryce said he did not know why Shakur was released on bail, the money for which was put up by Death Row chief executive Suge Knight.

Monogamous love is necessary — Pavarotti

ROME (AFP) — Opera megastar Luciano Pavarotti swore his undying commitment to monogamy as a sacrifice necessary for his art, sweeping aside rumours of dalliance with his 26-year-old secretary. "Women have always given me love and security, but a singer must make sacrifices and endure abstinence in every sense of the word... I am incredibly monogamous," Pavarotti said. However, abstinence for the opera star who turns 60 Thursday, does not stretch to gastronomic pleasures.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1974

جميع الحقوق محفوظة - All rights reserved - Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 684311, 699634

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Algeria: Stating the obvious

FRENCH PRESIDENT Jacques Chirac stated the obvious when he disclosed last week what he would tell Algerian President Liamine Zoualou when they meet in New York in a few weeks on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations: There is but one solution to the Algerian crisis and it lies squarely in democracy. But this French perspective is significant when viewed against the backdrop of repeated claims by Algeria's Armed Islamic Group (GIA) that Paris is siding with the military hardliners in Algeria. The GIA claims could explain, in part at least, the wave of bomb attacks in France by Algerian fundamentalists.

More than 30,000 people reportedly have been killed in Algeria since the military intervened in 1992 to terminate the general elections that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win. The interruption of the democratic process in that country brought about the internal bloody conflict that accounts for the heavy toll on people's lives and properties. Journalists were particularly targeted by the two sides in an effort to silence dissent and the dissemination of news and information. Other professionals were also on the hit list of one group or another especially women human rights advocates who spoke out openly for equal treatment for the two sexes.

Mr. Chirac's panacea to the Algerian situation is actually the solution to all conflicts and disputes whether domestic or external. The developing countries in particular have coined for themselves all sorts of formulae to govern themselves that were democratic only in name. That is why there were all kinds and brands of "democracy" that emerged in the wake of the end of the colonial era which was geared to serve the self-interests of the new rulers and regimes. In the process foreign imperialists were effectively replaced by national colonialists.

Algeria is faced with a major dilemma: To put all its trust and faith in the democratic process, come what may, or try to manipulate or doctor the democratisation process in order to "save" the country from what the military term as the "tyranny of the majority." On balance, we still believe that if a choice has to be made between one course or the other it must be made in favour of democracy as long as there are built-in measures to guarantee its continuity in the future. As international human rights tribunals now agree, self-determination is a continuing process and does not end with independence. The crux of the challenge to Algerians of all persuasions, then, is to give the right of self-determination a perpetual lease on life. If this much can be guaranteed, then no one can be entitled to put faith in undemocratic means as a way to attain democracy.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A columnist in Al Ra'i Saturday raised the question of the futility of the Arab League which, he said, had displayed total failure in all its actions and was bent on destroying, as opposed to enhancing, the charter on which it was founded. Having permitted the United States to lead a world coalition against Iraq in 1991, the Arab League also gave the green light to France and allowed it to handle the disturbances in the Comoros Islands with a free rein, said Tareq Masarweh. Noting that Iraq and the Comoros Islands are both members of the Arab League, the writer said the League had given its consent to foreign powers to interfere in Arab affairs instead of enforcing the pan-Arab defence pact which calls for Arab countries to settle issues within the Arab World. The writer wondered what position the Arab League would adopt in the event Egypt and Sudan went to war, or how it would act vis a vis the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya, the eviction of Palestinians from Kuwait and their loss of property and the continued starvation of Iraqis, or with regard to border disputes between Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States. He also questioned why Jordan should continue to contribute to the Arab League while its employees do nothing and its actions continue to defeat the purpose of its existence.

Reflecting on Iraq and its future status in the Middle East, Taher Al Adwan, writing in Al Dustour, said that the United States was making it impossible for Baghdad to see an end to the sanctions until its leaders succumbed to pressure and accepted Washington's terms. The writer said that following the destruction of Iraqi military power and national economy, the country was subjected to a campaign of inspections and pressures. The latest pressure, said the writer, aimed at forcing Baghdad to make peace with Israel and so obtain a good conduct certificate enabling the Iraqis to open its markets to US goods and allowing Washington to assume control over the country's oil wealth, said the writer. Once this happens, he said, the U.S. will force Iraq to yield to International Monetary Fund instructions, to set up a democracy designed by Washington that serves the American purpose and finally to remain deprived of modern technology. In addition, he said, the Iraqis will be forced to cooperate with other regimes in the region to fight what the U.S. considers a danger to Islam and to give up its Arab national policies and totally submit to the will.



Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahd Al Fanek

MENA summit:

A chance for Jordan

THE MIDDLE East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference scheduled to convene in Amman in two weeks time is in every respect an international conference. It is not a Jordanian conference in the same way the Casablanca economic summit last year was, by no means, a Moroccan conference.

Whether the coming economic conference will be a success or a failure depends on how one looks at it. The Casablanca conference, for instance, was successful from an American point of view. It was extremely successful from an Israeli point of view, as well. But it was not so successful from a Jordanian or Palestinian point of view because neither got any tangible benefit from their participation, as they were overwhelmed by other players who were more ready and better equipped.

Likewise, the Amman summit will be successful to certain participating states and corporations but probably a complete failure for others. The conference as a whole could not be described as successful or not successful except from the management and organisational points of view. Even if complete failure were the outcome, it would be considered a success for those who have been working overtime to sabotage it.

What we are interested in is whether or not the conference will be successful as far as Jordan is concerned. In this respect we have first to determine the criteria by which success should be measured. We divide these criteria into image promotion and economic results.

The conference will be a success from a Jordanian perspective if it results in creating a positive image for the

people, the government and the regime of Jordan. Although a Swiss institution, the World Economic Forum, is responsible for the organisation of the conference, the major responsibility of running and directing it falls on the shoulders of the host country. We know that the preparations for media coverage, security, and administration took months, and will be put to the test during the three-day conference. The indicator, in this respect, is what the international media will say.

On the other hand, the conference will be successful economically if some participants are convinced that Jordan is a good place for investment, and if government and the business leaders are able to convincingly present Jordanian projects and make effective contacts with their counterparts to attract them into cooperation in the implementation of Jordanian projects and in investing in the future of the country.

It is, of course, very important to follow up the contacts after the conference. Only official decisions and political declarations will be made during the conference. All economic and investment decisions will take place at a later stage.

The success of the MENA economic conference is a success for Jordan. If others make achievements and we fail, then we should not blame but ourselves. Unfortunately, there are among us many defeatists who misunderstand the very concept of "normalisation" and call for our withdrawal, leaving the void to be filled by others.

Latin America asks, is drug war worth it?

By Jorge G. Castaneda

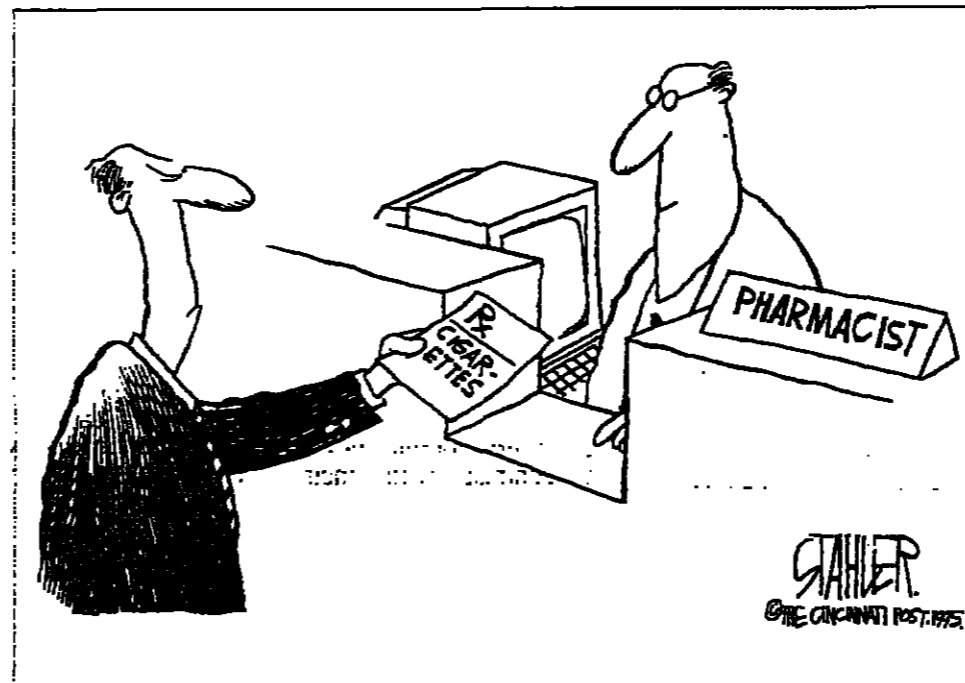
LOS ANGELES — For a while now, the Latin American drug scene has been undergoing a transformation: Traffickers, have become businessmen; governments have been seduced or tempted by the charms of accommodation; countries have been pressured by Washington into a war they cannot win and do not want to fight.

The travails of President Ernesto Samper of Colombia reflect this deterioration, though they must be viewed as symptoms of a hemispheric problem, not just as a Colombian anecdote or even as another marvellously told tale like Gabriel Garcia Marquez's forthcoming account of drug-linked adventures.

The story is simple. Mr. Samper was elected in 1994; his campaign finance director, Santiago Medina, subsequently confessed to the independent federal attorney general that he received campaign donations from the Cali cartel. His former campaign manager, Defence Minister Fernando Botero, has resigned and been thrown into jail.

Mr. Samper survives under a cloud of suspicion that he knew of and approved the contributions from the cartel. Mr. Medina is widely accused of either lying, settling personal accounts or even of having been commissioned by the cartel to join the Samper campaign, ingratiate himself with the candidate and later frame him if he misbehaved.

There are two ways to look at the president's role: Either Mr. Samper was aware of everything and knew exactly what he was doing, cutting a deal with the country's leading exporters so he could win a tight election and govern peacefully afterward. Or Mr. Samper was ignorant of misdeeds that others performed on his behalf and was set up by his aides. But



he is still to blame for running such a loose ship that this sort of mischief was not only feasible, but likely.

The conclusion to be drawn in either case is the same. Presidential politics in Colombia is now permeated, through and through, by the cartels, be they the formerly all-powerful but now presumed extinct Cali and Medellin organisations or by rapidly emerging substitutes.

As the Samper government becomes mired down in the financing affair, Latin Americans are asking if the war on drugs is doing the region more harm than good.

Gustavo de Greif, the Colombian ambassador to Mexico and former attorney general, whose commitment to combating the drug trade in Colombia is corroborated by his success in dismantling the Medellin cartel and tracking down its leader, Pablo Escobar, has his doubts about the wisdom of continuing the battle. He has called for the legalisation of drugs in Latin America, arguing that the cost of combating them is far greater for Latin American nations than the benefit of their eradication, even if the latter was possible.

While Mr. de Greif has accused of ancient ties with corporations known to be owned by the Cali chiefs, his voice is respected in the hemisphere. Mexican industrial magnates, rarely suspected of espousing particularly liberal views on social matters, are also rumoured to be lobbying for studies that would support the case for the legalisation of drugs.

But what about the United States? Increasingly, Washington is saying that if Latin American governments are not willing or able to wage the war on drugs according to U.S. standards, then the United States should be allowed to do it for them.

President Gonzalo Sanchez de Losada of Bolivia is said to have told his fellow Latin American presidents recently that he sarcastically asked an American envoy to whom he should hand over power, since U.S. demands for more action were becoming increasingly unacceptable. This is also clearly emerging as a problem in Mexico, where the silent pressures from Washington are weakening an already precarious government.

Negotiating with the drug lords while simultaneously maintaining the facade of confrontation is proving too costly and embarrassing for Latin American governments. The options are narrowing: Either persuade Latin American societies that the war on drugs can be won — or go home. This drastic choice may not have to be faced tomorrow, but it is closer than ever before.

The writer is a visiting professor at Princeton University and the author of a forthcoming book, "The Mexican Shock." He contributed this comment to the Los Angeles Times. The above article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

Arab culture or simple economics?

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

IN AN article that was published in the Jordan Times on Sept. 26, Mr. Rami Khouri addressed certain social phenomenon in a highly enlightening article. In the article, the following questions were addressed: "Why do Arabs often throw rubbish out of their car windows? Why is it so hard for Arab culture to provide clean bathrooms in public places? Why do we find it so difficult to adopt 'democratic' systems and 'civil society' structures similar to those in the Western industrialised democracies?" These questions were answered by relating them to the demise of Arabian public space at the hands of the state and tribal institutions: "The public space that does exist has been almost totally appropriated by two central actors in modern Arab culture - the state and the tribe ... there is almost no space for anything substantive in our modern Arab cultures." Thus, "thus small zones that fall in neither the territory of the state nor of the tribe ... are perceived as zones of no responsibility."

While I note that Mr. Khouri's points are well taken from the view of a social observer, I would like to address the problem(s) from a different perspective, that of an economist. I present here, via simpler reasoning than Mr. Khouri's conclusions.

"Why do Arabs often throw rubbish out of their car windows?" The reason may be because of one or all of the following:

1. They could not find trash containers close-at hand which would have made it effortless for them to chuck their trash appropriately. Why doesn't the government provide them with trash bins on the roads and highways similar to the ones provided in the U.S. and the West? Because we do not have the resources to do so.

2. They were not afraid of being seen by the police who usually turn a blind eye to the garbage-chuckers. Since the likelihood of being caught and punished is low, one's expected private cost becomes less than his private displeasure of putting up with his own trash for a longer period. Therefore, he proceeds to trash the public highway because he is a very clean person. The reverse is true in the West where one's prospect of being caught is extremely high. Thus the added private benefit from not putting up with one's own trash becomes less than the cost of getting rid of it illegally.

3. Environmental awareness among Arab nations is almost non-existent because we are, after all, poor developing nations. Our governments face financial hardships. In many of our regions people suffer from malnutrition, our incomes are low in comparison to the West, our unemployment figures are high and our conception of waste and pollution is still new. On the other hand, Western governments have spent billions of dollars in the last few years to make their citizens and industries more aware of the ecosystem and environmental safety. Again, lack of awareness of the social damage to the environment makes trashing the highway not so costly in the mind's eye of the good citizen. In other words, the magnitude of the social cost of trashing is not known to the average person and therefore it tends to be minimised.

4. Not having the resources to buy trash bags or garbage bins that would not look offensive in one's car. In spite of the fact that trash bags are cheap in absolute terms, relative to income they are higher in the Arab World than in the West.

5. Lack of awareness on the part of the police, to whom all the above applies. I know that there is a law against trashing, however, I have seen police officers trash highways and dump cigarette butts or empty their ashtrays on the highway. I know that this is not true of all policemen, but it happens.

Why is it so hard for Arab culture to provide clean bathrooms in public places? One or more of the following explanations may apply:

1. One's attitude toward public bathrooms is more or less the same regardless of one's country. What is different is the amount of money you are willing to spend on cleaning them. Again, the West must win this one because it has more money. No one has an incentive to keep a public bathroom clean, regardless of nationality. The idea is as follows: One person uses it, another cleans it. Nobody holds a monopoly on good attitudes. After all, removing graffiti and keeping the floors clean in public bathrooms is a big expenditure item to most city governments in the West. Why do fine restaurants in the West and possibly everywhere hire an attendant who stays in the restroom at all times? His/her job is to make sure that the bathroom stays clean by cleaning it after those sophisticated have left. In addition, one must realise that the amount of money spent on providing a clean bathroom must be consistent with the income levels of the users. In other words, the public bathroom cannot offer better indemnities than those found in the majority of private bathrooms of the users, otherwise, people will tend to take from the public bathrooms and/or deface them to bring them to par to their own comfort zones. For example, I recall going into one of these places that was set up close of a rest house by some municipality on the way to Petra. There was no toilet paper anywhere. Why? The people who live near the rest house take the paper and use it at home in place of napkins.

Officials finally decided it was not worth restocking these bathrooms. The people were never caught for stealing public property and no one complained about the officials not stocking the bathrooms. Both behaviours were rational in terms of the circumstances. In economic term the situation can be described as a game in which the optimal long-run solution of the natives would be to take smaller amounts without letting the officers of the municipality notice their theft. Thus, the official continue to stock the bathrooms and the locals continue to abscond with free toilet paper. However, if there is no monitoring of the officials, they can always claim that the natives are stealing the supplies and sell the supplies elsewhere. A sticky problem maybe? Yes. Many schools in New York complain about the school janitors selling the school supplies on the black market. Homeless people raid public bathrooms for supplies. The subject matter is economics, not cultural bias.

2. Additionally, what has contributed significantly in the past to the filth of public bathrooms in Amman is that they were cleaned by public sector employees. Nowadays, the bathrooms have improved markedly thanks to some private sector company that charges the user a small fee and maintains the cleanliness of these bathrooms. A caveat is in order here, this private firm should not become a monopolist with governmental blessings, it should be monitored and allowed to compete for its business with others.

Why do we find it so difficult to adopt 'democratic' systems and 'civil society' structures similar to those in the Western industrialised democracies?

Because we are not as industrialised as the West. Industrial institutions dissolve tribes and extended families. The machine does not care for your tribe and ancestry, all it cares about is whether you produce or not. Nomadic and agrarian societies, to which most Arabs still belong, depend on the tribe for protection, wealth, and income. As we move forward, we too will set up industrial style democracies.

The answers to all the questions have a common thread: We are not yet an industrial society. When we do get there, maybe then, other conclusions can be derived. Factors such as income, wealth, and education, especially when lacking, affect behaviour.

LETTERS

Elitism is the word

To the editor:

WITH ALL due respect to the views expressed by the Right Honourable Senator Ma'an Abu Nowar (Letter to the Editor, the Jordan Times, Oct. 14, 1995), I would like to point out the following:

First: I was one of the panellists who were selected by the organisers of the conference to discuss parliamentary life in Jordan, and my intervention was not, therefore, out of place.

Second: There is nothing in the laws or bylaws governing the work of parliament that prevent members of its staff from addressing issues related to the performance of the House and the House's secretariat.

Third: I am convinced that it is my right to debate "politics of the nature discussed in the seminar." Dr. Abu Nowar, made many attempts to deny me the right to speak

out, contravening in the process my basic right to free speech regardless of how "extremely sensitive politically, legally and morally" the issue at hand was.

Fourth: One would have expected from the right honourable gentleman to show tolerance and understanding to the concerns and worries of a young compatriot. Instead, and on top of his many attempts to muzzle me at the seminar, he carried this to the newspapers describing me as a "junior clerk" and my interventions as a "dabbling in..." two descriptions that, wreak of elitism, to say the least.

Hassan Abdullah,
Parliament House,
Amman

FAO says high cereal prices hit world's hungry

ROME (R) — The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) warned that some of the world's poorest countries faced major problems because of rising international cereal prices.

The Rome-based agency said in its latest Food Outlook that sharp price increases were putting a huge financial burden on those countries, already facing reduced shipments of food aid, that most needed but could least afford imports.

FAO said that with higher prices the cost of cereal imports "will be much greater in 1995/96, having possible serious implications for low-income food-deficit countries."

"There is no evidence that the high cereal prices have resulted in reduced cereal imports for food consumption by developing countries," it reported.

"However, there is growing concern that many of these countries will not be able to finance in 1995/96 the additional cost of cereal imports which FAO estimates at about \$3,000 million, or some 25 per cent more than in 1994/95, for all low-income food-deficit countries in aggregate," FAO said.

Food Outlook said prices remained highly volatile due to a tight supply situation caused by lower production in 1995 and reduced stocks held by the major exporters.

It said its latest estimate for 1995 production was 1.891 billion tonnes, 58 million tonnes below last year.

Global cereal stocks were set to fall in crop years ending in 1996 by some 47 million tonnes to 265 million.

The agency said several countries, already suffering from supply difficulties, were causing immediate concern.

"In southern Africa, following drought reduced harvests, an estimated 10 million people are in need of emergency food assistance," the Food Outlook said.

"However deliveries of food aid remain slow and further pledges are needed coupled with measures to expedite their delivery and internal distribution," it added.

FAO forecast cereal production in Somalia would be sharply down in 1995 from the previous year.

It said a series of food supply assessment missions would visit the Horn of Africa to review the outcome of 1995 harvests and estimate the food aid requirements for 1996.

"But it is already clear that vulnerable populations throughout the sub-region will continue to require emergency assistance well into 1996," FAO said.

Elsewhere in Africa, the agency said the food situation remained critical for large sections of society in Sierra Leone and Liberia, due to reduced harvests caused by civil war.

FAO said that higher cereal prices were also having an effect in the feeds industry, with some countries using maize instead of low quality wheat in animal food rations.

"Higher prices are expected to lead to reduced utilisation of grains, in particular for animal feed, and are already affecting the composition of cereal imports in 1995/96 especially in Asia," the Food Outlook said.

Abu Dhabi to spend \$3b on development projects

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Gulf emirate of Abu Dhabi, a major oil producer, is planning to pump nearly \$13 billion into development projects in the next four years, official figures have showed.

Around 42.7 per cent of the investment would be channelled into water and electricity projects, 25.4 per cent into communication, 10 per cent into services and five per cent into housing, said a paper at an investment conference.

"The projects are within comprehensive development plans being carried out by Abu Dhabi government," said the paper, presented by Abdullah bin Huwailil, deputy chairman of the Abu Dhabi chamber of commerce and industry.

The paper, citing planning ministry figures, said the investment did not include spending on the oil sector, which is expected to attract huge allocations for plans to expand the production capacity.

Inflation spreads poverty to 40 million Russians

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia has overshot its inflation targets this year and real incomes have fallen sharply spreading profound poverty among 40 million people, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said Friday.

In a gloomy assessment of the economy, he said that failure to meet inflation targets had cut real incomes by 12 per cent but he stressed commitment to reform and to curb on the power of monopolies.

He also said that the government was working on a scheme to break a logjam of internal debt by converting amounts owed into transferable property rights.

Speaking to the lower house, the State Duma, Mr. Chernomyrdin urged parliament to put economic interests before politics and adopt the 1996 draft budget.

The reason for the 12 per cent fall in real incomes was that "we did not reach the forecast level of inflation," he said, revealing that the incomes of 40 million Russians in January-September 1995 were lower than the

minimum subsistence amount.

The 1996 draft budget, submitted to the Duma at the end of August, was based on a monthly inflation rate of 1.2 per cent, Finance Minister Vladimir Pankov said Wednesday.

Parliament has delayed adopting the budget and senior deputies hold that the inflation targets are unrealistic.

Inflation, which hit 17.8 per cent in January, was brought down to 4.5 per cent in September as the government pursued tight monetary policies approved by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said the 1996 draft budget "reflects the continuity of the economic policy aimed at deepening reforms," and urged parliament to adopt it before the end of 1995.

Deputies should not allow pre-election political campaigning to influence important economic decisions, he said, proposing "a non-aggression pact, or peaceful

coexistence pact" with parliament.

"There's little time left before the end of the year and we have much to do," he said.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said the power of monopolies, especially those in the energy sectors, had to be curbed because they were too influential in determining prices.

He also announced plans to boost the armed forces budget in 1995, increasing house-building for servicemen and their families.

Funds allocated for reconstruction work in war-ravaged Chechnya were set at two trillion roubles (\$444 million) in the 1996 budget, he said.

In a bid to tackle a deepening internal debt crisis, the government was drafting a plan to turn overdue debentures into property to be transferred to creditors.

Exceptions would only be made for defence ministry and educational establishments.

Overdue credits amounted

to 173 trillion roubles (\$38.4 billion) and the accumulated debts of enterprises exceeded 130 trillion roubles (\$28.8 billion), he said.

Finance Minister Pankov told the Duma that the 1996 draft budget put forecast budget revenue at 15.8 per cent of GDP from 13.5 per cent in 1995.

Mikhail Zadornov, head of the Duma's budget committee, challenged Mr. Chernomyrdin's figures, saying real incomes had fallen by 18 per cent in 1995.

Mr. Zadornov said the draft budget should not be adopted because it would cut spending on education, culture, law and order and defence.

There was no basis for the draft budget's figure of 12 trillion roubles (\$2.6 billion) in projected revenue from privatisation, because the 1995 target of nine trillion roubles from privatisation had not been met, he said.

The 1996 draft budget puts spending at 414.42 trillion roubles (\$92 billion) and revenue at 332.57 trillion roubles.

Housemaids keep Sri Lanka's economy afloat

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lankan housemaids working abroad are propping up the island's war-weary economy, but they may be unable to sustain the country's costly fight against Tamil rebels, according to financial analysts.

Women employed in the Gulf and South East Asia remit about \$1.5 million a day and help Sri Lanka maintain a healthy reserve position despite escalating defence expenditures.

"You must understand that this is a war fought with dollars and not rupees. If not for the remittances from the housemaids, the economy would have collapsed a long time ago," one commercial banker said.

The money sent home by some half a million Sri Lankans working abroad while helping the balance of payments is also fuelling inflation, officially estimated at 12 per cent.

A budgeted expenditure of 33.9 billion rupees (\$670 million) to fight the war against separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas in 1996 will further compound the problems of an economy already in deep trouble, analysts say.

"If the government continues to compete with the commercial banks for private funds, then it will put pressure on the banks to raise their deposit rates," a senior manager at the state-run bank of

Ceylon (BOC) said.

He said gilt-edge Treasury Bills (T.B.s) yielding 20.3 per cent interest were already taking away deposits from commercial banks offering 15 per cent on one-year fixed deposits.

High deposit rates in turn could fuel steep lending rates and lead to galloping inflation, bankers warned. Steady depreciation of the rupee was also adding to the problem.

The gloom in the economy is reflected in the tiny Colombo Stock Exchange, which has shed nearly 500 points in the past year with virtually all blue chip shares trading at less than the net asset value, brokers said.

However, despite poor investor confidence in the market, the Bank of Ceylon, the country's largest commercial bank, managed to issue a floating rate note (FRN) and raise \$12 million Monday.

BOC Chairman Rajan

Asirwatham said the FRN arranged was seven times oversubscribed.

"This shows that there is confidence despite this talk of gloom and doom," Mr. Asirwatham said. The FRN carries an interest rate 1.75 percentage points higher than the benchmark London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR).

However, all commercial bankers as well as senior business leaders here agree that the economy has slowed down in the absence of any market-moving policy by the year-old government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

"There is no doubt a major slump. The economy is going through a bad patch. But settlers are holding no, hoping that prices will improve," said Stanley Javawardene, the chairman of a large hotel and property development company.

According to the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), resumption of hostilities claiming more than 2,000 lives in the past six months will make it more difficult to woo foreign investors.

"For the moment, the government cannot look to a 'peace dividend' or to a sport in investor confidence," the IPS "State of the Economy 1995" report said, adding that firm policy signals were lacking from the new government.

"The country is not a write-off, at least not yet," senior broker Elton Fbert of Lanka Securities Private Ltd. said. "The problem is to put some dynamism and attract more foreign interest in the economy."

UAE official warns of fresh threats to Gulf oil supplies

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf producers, already suffering the repercussions of two major regional wars and a decline in demand for their crude, could face further threats ahead, an expert warned Saturday.

Jamal Al Suweidi, director of the state-run Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), said the Gulf region was still the main oil supplier in the world despite two Gulf wars and a decline in crude prices.

But he warned: "The future holds many different formidable challenges which could threaten Gulf energy even more."

Mr. Suweidi was addressing a closed-door international energy conference entitled "Gulf energy and the world: Challenges and threats."

Organisers said 17 energy experts from the Gulf, Japan, Britain and the United States were participating in the two-day meeting, which will focus on mapping out an oil strategy for Arab Gulf states.

Papers to be discussed at the conference in Abu Dhabi would be distributed to the governments in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) before they are published in a book, the organisers said.

"I think we can all agree that the Gulf region continues to play a key role on the world energy scene. But this position is no longer as secure and stable as was the case only two decades ago," Mr. Suweidi said.

He said this was because of a steady increase in oil production by independent producers at the expense of Gulf countries and other OPEC members, environmental concerns, energy conserva-

tion in industrial nations, and progress in the search for alternative energy sources.

The changes, Mr. Suweidi added, have depressed oil prices and demand for Gulf crude and aggravated the financial woes of GCC states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"Very few oil-exporting countries today enjoy the financial cushion of only a few years ago. These financial constraints and challenges are likely to grow and with a world economy that continues to remain somewhat stagnant, political instability cannot be ruled out," he said.

"What needs to be remembered, however, is that the challenges faced by Gulf countries today need to be looked upon from their commercial as well as from their political dimension. What is needed is a new strategy that will optimise and most effectively make use of alternative available," Mr. Suweidi pointed out.

GCC states and Iran and Iraq sit on around 660 billion barrels of oil, accounting for more than 60 per cent of the world's total proven crude reserves. They also produce nearly a quarter of the global oil supplies.

The eight states also hold around 45 trillion cubic metres (1,500 trillion cubic feet) of natural gas, nearly one third of the world's.

But all of them have been hurt by low oil prices, which are now nearly half their 1981 level.

Horoscope

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day to seek new data for whatever is most important to you at this time and elevate your consciousness.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) If you contact experts today, you can gain the information you have long been searching for. Steer clear of a grouchy person.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Ramble about and see persons hard to reach during busy weekdays and don't get confused with your mate in the evening.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get out early in the morning today and accomplish a good deal, but later tonight avoid a partner who is irate with the way conditions have occurred.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a good morning to plan how to be more successful in personal affairs, and later tonight put your plan to the test.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You understand better now how to handle a worldly affair and can do so quickly. Be careful in driving on the highway.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a fine day to advance mentally, morally, monetarily by right thinking and study, but don't get confused over a money matter.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your hunches are fine during the daytime today and you should be followed so that you get excellent results later tonight.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Being more direct with partners brings a fine understanding between you and them. You can get much accomplished today with the help of others.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) The day hours today are fine for handling personal matters and seeing friends, you like, but the evening will be best spent at home.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a good day to show your humanitarian traits and be of real service to others. Do the things which will bring happiness to your mate.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a good day to clear up misunderstandings at home and establish harmony there. Avoid wandering about town tonight.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS

- Forum wear
- Lane
- Frequently, to poets
- Stubbom as —
- U.S. author
- Land measure
- Hermit
- Shakespeare
- Unskilled laborer
- Disguising
- Utter
- breathlessly
- Night light
- Occurrences
- Hi-fi system
- Large landmass
- Swiss river
- Secluded spot
- Weapon for hurling stones
- Boat or train start
- Glide down the slopes
- River duck
- Confused
- Alight
- Variable star
- Furthermore
- Fished with hook and line
- District of Ireland
- Jackson or Smith
- Pacific istle
- Freezing
- Prayer word
- Consumer
- Relation of a kind
- Boxing milieu
- Chest sound
- Escape by cleverness
- Witness
- A Gardner
- 70 Valleys

DOWN

- Powder
- Melville tale
- Actor Moses
- Actor Guinness
- Peaceful
- Cellist Casals
- Encore!
- Sea swallow
- Bushy barriers
- Indian or Arctic
- Facade
- Campers' shelters
- Winsome
- Long, long time
- Carpenter's item
- Heroic narrative
- Small pie
- Notable time periods
- Divulging
- Related
- European capital
- River to the Volga
- One on a pedestal
- Granular snow
- Alumnus, briefly
- Ivy League college
- Palm fruit
- Safe
- Approached
- Ski lift
- components
- Cordage fiber
- Coeur d' —, ID
- The curfew tolls the — (Gray)
- Assent
- Glacial ridges
- Molten rock
- Type of type: abbr.
- Brood of pheasants
- Departs

© 1995 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

"I heard a rumor at work today. Instead of a year-end bonus, we're all getting noogies."

Peanuts

YES, MA'AM... I WAS WONDERING IF I MIGHT HAVE A DESK IN THE BACK ROW.

NO, MA'AM... I UNDERSTAND... THAT'S LIFE...

LAST ROW, UPPER DECK AT THE BALLPARK... FIRST ROW IN THE CLASSROOM

Andy Cap

I WONDER WHY YOU GOT ME THE EYE?

I DON'T TRUST SOME OF THESE YOUNG LINS, JACK...

BUT THEN, I DON'T TRUST SOME OF THE OLD LINS, EITHER.

Mutt'n'Jeff

MUTT, WILL YOU LEND ME FIVE DOLLARS? I WANT TO GO TO THE DOCTOR!

WELL, OK, I'LL LEND YOU FIVE BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY ME BACK SATURDAY!

THAT BUMP ON THE HONK YOU GOT IS BOTHERING YOU, HEY?

ASH, I'M WORRIED ABOUT LOSIN' AN IN MEMORY!

I HOPE YOU DON'T LOSE YOUR MEMORY BEFORE YOU FORGET!

WHAT'S SATURDAY?

SATURDAY IS THE DAY YOU RIN ME DOWN THE FINE BUNDS I LENT YOU!

WHEN'S THE FINE DOLLARS I LOANED YOU GO TO THE DOCTOR?

WHAT'S FINE BUNDS?

trial warns threats to supplies

tion in industrial nations progress in the search for alternative energy sources. The changes, Mr. Sumner said, have depressed crude and refined oil prices and demand for financial services at the same time.

Bahrain, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Very few oil-exporting countries today enjoy a financial cushion of only a few years' worth of oil. These countries are likely to face a world economy that continues to remain stagnant, what Mr. Sumner said, "but cannot be ruled out."

What needs to be done, however, is to face the challenges faced by the countries today. The need to look upon them as a world economy, as well as a political dimension. What is needed is a new strategy to optimize and make the most of the available resources, Mr. Sumner said.

Oil states and Iraq. Iraq sits on around two billion barrels of oil, accounting more than 10 per cent of the world's total proven oil reserves. They also produce nearly a quarter of the oil supply.

The eight states also around 4.5 trillion barrels (1,500 trillion feet) of natural gas, one third of the world's total. They also have huge oil reserves, but have been slow to develop them.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY OCTOBER 15, 1995

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): This is a day to be optimistic and to look for new opportunities. You may find a new job or a new business opportunity.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20): This is a day to be cautious and to look for new opportunities. You may find a new job or a new business opportunity.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20): This is a day to be optimistic and to look for new opportunities. You may find a new job or a new business opportunity.

Cancer (June 21 to July 20): This is a day to be cautious and to look for new opportunities. You may find a new job or a new business opportunity.

Leo (July 21 to Aug. 20): This is a day to be optimistic and to look for new opportunities. You may find a new job or a new business opportunity.

Virgo (Aug. 21 to Sept. 20): This is a day to be cautious and to look for new opportunities. You may find a new job or a new business opportunity.

Scorpio (Sept. 21 to Oct. 20): This is a day to be optimistic and to look for new opportunities. You may find a new job or a new business opportunity.

Sagittarius (Oct. 21 to Nov. 20): This is a day to be cautious and to look for new opportunities. You may find a new job or a new business opportunity.

Capricorn (Nov. 21 to Dec. 20): This is a day to be optimistic and to look for new opportunities. You may find a new job or a new business opportunity.

Aquarius (Dec. 21 to Jan. 20): This is a day to be cautious and to look for new opportunities. You may find a new job or a new business opportunity.

Pisces (Jan. 21 to Feb. 20): This is a day to be optimistic and to look for new opportunities. You may find a new job or a new business opportunity.

business daily beat
A review of economic news from the Arabic press

CBJ to put new JD 1 coin in circulation tomorrow

★ A NEW ONE dinar coin will be put in circulation on Monday, Oct. 16, 1995 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The plain and heptagonal coin, which is 32mm in diameter, 2.1mm thick and weighing 12.4gm, is legal tender and will circulate alongside the banknotes and coins issued according to the by-law of Issuance of Jordanian Currency No. 28 year 1992. The obverse of the new coin bears an effigy of His Majesty King Hussein encircled by the words "Hussein Bin Talal," "The King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in Arabic. The reverse incorporates the logo of the FAO, the denomination (one dinar) in writing in Arabic and English, the Hejira and Gregorian dates of issue and the phrase "The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in English.

★ ENRON CORPORATION, a major U.S. entity specialising in energy, has applied to the government to explore and extract natural gas from 24 wells, found by the Jordanian authorities to be unproductive, in Al Rishah area. Rajab Al Saad, chairman of the National Oil Company, said Enron was confident of very large natural gas deposits based on deep studies of the surveys and the soil in that area. Currently, only six wells produce 30 million cubic feet of natural gas a day covering five per cent of the needs to generate power. The negotiations between the National Oil Company and Enron are expected to start in Amman soon in order to arrive at an agreement that will entail investments in millions of dollars. If the U.S. company succeeds in extracting gas from the unproductive wells or from new fields in an area of 7,200 square kilometres, it is hoped that the Kingdom's needs to cover power generation would be met. At present, the volume of natural gas extracted is equivalent to 4,500 barrels of oil per day whereas the amount needed is estimated at between 25,000 to 27,000 barrels of oil per day (Al Dustour).

★ THE HIGHER steering committee for the Amman economic summit has agreed during a meeting in Washington last week to set up a regional development bank for the Middle East and North Africa and an official announcement on this matter will be made during the summit. Government sources said the steering committee succeeded in arriving at an agreement on the bank after a long debate between the participating parties, provided that the structure of the bank be based in Cairo and Amman. Furthermore, it was agreed to hold the summit next year either in Cairo or in Doha (Al Aswaq).

★ STATISTICS issued by the association of engineers show that the total number of engineers registered at the association has reached 34,856 engineers. The number in 1958 was only 37. According to an earlier bulletin, a new engineer applies for the membership of the association every five hours (Al Dustour).

★ AN AGREEMENT was signed between the Civil Aviation Authority and the U.S. company Lockheed Martin under which the company will conduct a feasibility study for the Aqaba/Eilat international airport project. The study, to be carried out over six months, will cost \$500,000 and will be financed by the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (Al Dustour).

RJR to cut 575 jobs, moves international tobacco base to Geneva

NEW YORK (AP) — RJR Nabisco plans to cut costs and light a fire under global sales of its cigarettes like Winston and Camel by eliminating about five per cent of its domestic tobacco jobs and moving its international tobacco headquarters to Switzerland. Virtually all of the 575 job cuts announced Friday will be in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where RJR's R.J. Reynolds tobacco business is based. Reynolds is the second-biggest tobacco products company in the United States but has been losing ground in the battle for market share as Philip Morris, with its Marlboro brand, has widened its lead. While analysts described the two moves as modest gestures, they were being made as RJR Nabisco executives are under increasing pressure to boost the stock price or otherwise deliver more value to shareholders. Financier Bennett Lebow recently secured clearance to buy up to 15 per cent of the company after being rebuffed by RJR on his proposal to combine Reynolds with his Liggett tobacco business. Corporate raider Carl Icahn has sought similar investment clearance from federal regulators. While analysts doubt that he two men could mount a takeover of RJR, they say they could marshal shareholder support for a dividend increase, a proxy fight against current management or separation to the \$15 billion conglomerate's tobacco and food businesses. In addition to tobacco, RJR owns 80.5 per cent stake in Nabisco Holdings Corp., which makes Oreo cookies, Ritz crackers and Planters peanuts. "We have high expectations regarding the future impact of this programme to reorganise and streamline both the international and domestic tobacco businesses," RJR's chairman and chief executive, Charles Harper, said in announcing the tobacco restructuring on Friday.

RJR said the actions would reduce earnings by \$160 million in the fourth quarter. By 1997, Mr. Harper said the moves should begin generating more than \$150 million a year in extra income. Other company officials said those restructuring gains will be reinvested in supporting the brands. Reynolds is cutting 500 jobs, or about 5.2 per cent of its domestic work force of about 9,500 people, including 7,500 in Winston-Salem. Roy Barry, tobacco analyst at Oppenheimer and Co., said the job cuts were designed to "create some savings" that can be used to beef up marketing efforts. "They want to stem the loss of market share in the U.S. market because that is its most important source of cash generation," he said. John Maxwell, tobacco analyst for Wheat First Butcher and Singer, estimated that RJR's share of the domestic tobacco market fell to 25.9 per cent in the 12 months ending in June from 28.3 per cent a year earlier. Mr. Maxwell characterised the job cuts as some fine-tuning by RJR. "All of these companies are continuing to try to find ways to cut overhead and be more efficient," he said. RJR is also moving its international tobacco headquarters to Geneva, Switzerland, where it employs 160 people. The company said 75 of those jobs will be eliminated but that 85 other employees will be offered jobs in Geneva or elsewhere in RJR. The international tobacco division already operates two regional offices in Geneva. Company officials said consolidating those offices with the main international office would put top international managers closer to their key European markets and eliminate duplicated costs. The company said the move of the international base had nothing to do with anti-tobacco litigation in the United States.

Japanese women sue company for discrimination

TOKYO (AP) — In a case that starkly illustrates the disparities between men and women in Japan's workplaces, six women have sued their employer for alleged discrimination against them in pay and promotions. The six employees of Kanematsu Corp., a major trading company, asked for 170 million yen (\$1.7 million) in damages and lost wages, saying they had been shunted into lower-paying sections of the company during their careers. Although Japan passed an equal employment opportunity law in 1986, the law's enforcement provisions are weak, and it is still common for companies to put men and women on different career tracks. Even women who work the same hours and do similar jobs to men can find themselves earning much less after just a few years. At Kanematsu, for example, women were virtually all put into clerical positions, while men were put into a faster-track management division, said a union representing the company's employees. On average, a 27-year-old man would make about the same as a woman twice his age, and after 30 years in the company most men would be earning more than 500,000 yen (\$5,000) a month, compared to three-fifths that for women, the union said. The men also get more perks, such as travel allowances and generous expense accounts. "It's not as if because we earned half the money, we could do less work," said atsuko Kimura, one of the plaintiffs. "If you think of how much difference there will be in your retirement (pay), it's just too much to bear." The plaintiffs in the case have worked at Kanematsu for 13 to 38 years. They said they tried first to work out the disagreement outside the courtroom. Kanematsu officials declined comment on the case. Numerous surveys have found discrimination in hiring and promotion practices in Japan, but the government has been slow to take action.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States, bent on isolating Saddam Hussein, looks at Sunday's controversial referendum on the Iraqi presidency and recent U.N. findings on Baghdad's weapons programme as vindication of U.S. policy. The administration of President Bill Clinton has dismissed the poll expected to prolong President Saddam's mandate for seven more years as a "mockery of democracy" while pressing its campaign to maintain U.N. sanctions against Baghdad. "The referendum is a transparent effort to suggest that there is popular support for Saddam Hussein's regime," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said this week. "The Iraqi regime is not interested in the views of the Iraqi people. It's a sham election, sham referendum," he asserted. U.S. condemnation of the referendum coincided with the release at the United Nations of the latest report by a special commission tasked with overseeing Iraqi disarmament. The report by special envoy Rolf Ekeus presented Wednesday to the Security Council said that Iraq "had been misleading the commission by withholding information" on the development of its nuclear and chemical weapons programme. The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, speaking to journalists at U.N. headquarters in New York, called the report "stunning" and said it showed that Iraq "cheated and lied more than anybody suspected."

U.S. firms boost plans for new investments

WASHINGTON (R) — Businesses are boosting their plans for spending on bigger plants and new equipment this year, the Commerce Department has said. Companies intend to spend \$600.74 billion on new capital equipment in 1995, a 9.4 per cent rise from 1994, instead of the 6.6 per cent increase indicated six months ago. That is less than a revised 12.1 per cent increase in capital spending during 1994, which was previously reported as a 13.7 per cent jump, but still represents a strong pace of new investment. Vigorous spending by domestic companies on updated production equipment and computers not only benefits the economy, but also makes U.S. industries more competitive in foreign markets. The latest survey of capital spending was mailed in June to 30,000 companies. It updates one conducted last fall that was published in February. The department questions companies in non-inflationary businesses twice a year to measure their investment plans. The revised investment survey showed manufacturers intend to boost spending this year by 26.1 per cent to \$181.83 billion, stronger than the 20.2 per cent increase they indicated in the preceding survey and more than three times the 7.5 per cent increase in capital spending they made in 1994.

Japan reports modest rise in Middle East investment

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Japan has pumped only \$216 million in additional investment in the Middle East even though it is the region's main trade partner and the biggest buyer of its oil, officials said Tuesday. From \$4.231 billion at the end of March 1993, Japan's direct investments increased to \$4.447 billion at the end of March 1994, said Shigero Kimura, director of the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) office in the United Arab Emirates. The bulk of the increase was recorded in the UAE, where Japanese investment grew to \$694 million from \$535 million during the same period, according to JETRO figures sent to AFP. Another increase was recorded in the Neutral Zone, an oil-rich desert strip shared by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Investment there, concentrated in the Arabian Oil Company, rose to \$1.586 billion from \$1.565 billion. Japan's investment in Saudi Arabia and Iran remained unchanged at \$470 million and \$1.385 billion respectively. Assets in Bahrain also remained at \$202 million while investment in other parts of the Middle East increased to \$110 million from \$75 million, according to Mr. Kimura, who provided no figures for 1995. Most of Japan's investments in the region, mainly in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), cover oil and gas, industry and marketing. Mr. Kimura attributed the sharp increase in the UAE to a surge in the number of Japanese companies operating in Dubai's Jebel Ali free trade zone. He said 27 Japanese firms were now operating in the zone, the biggest in the region, compared with 18 at the end of March 1993. The figures showed Japan's investment in the GCC did not exceed one per cent of its worldwide assets of around \$386 billion.

U.S. feels vindicated in anti-Saddam crusade

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States, bent on isolating Saddam Hussein, looks at Sunday's controversial referendum on the Iraqi presidency and recent U.N. findings on Baghdad's weapons programme as vindication of U.S. policy. The administration of President Bill Clinton has dismissed the poll expected to prolong President Saddam's mandate for seven more years as a "mockery of democracy" while pressing its campaign to maintain U.N. sanctions against Baghdad. "The referendum is a transparent effort to suggest that there is popular support for Saddam Hussein's regime," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said this week. "The Iraqi regime is not interested in the views of the Iraqi people. It's a sham election, sham referendum," he asserted. U.S. condemnation of the referendum coincided with the release at the United Nations of the latest report by a special commission tasked with overseeing Iraqi disarmament. The report by special envoy Rolf Ekeus presented Wednesday to the Security Council said that Iraq "had been misleading the commission by withholding information" on the development of its nuclear and chemical weapons programme. The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, speaking to journalists at U.N. headquarters in New York, called the report "stunning" and said it showed that Iraq "cheated and lied more than anybody suspected."

U.S. officials said the findings would prompt the U.N. Security Council to definitely put future reconsideration of the sanctions regime on the back burner, for at least a year. "It's certainly not weeks or months," a spokesman for Albright said. "It is difficult to imagine Iraq being able to establish its credibility in a year." The U.N.-approved sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait prohibit Baghdad from exporting oil, its main source of hard currency, sparking shortages of food and medicines. The defection of Iraqi General Hussein Kamel in August, considered one of the chief architects of Iraq's military buildup, has provided advocates of a tough line with arguments to support continued intransigence towards Baghdad. In a speech to the U.N. General Assembly last month, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said sanctions would not be lifted until Iraq complies with U.S. demands on disarmament and demonstrates it has changed its hostile attitude. Mr. Christopher did not, however, spell out how the change in attitude could be objectively measured. The tough U.S. position advocating "dual containment" of Iraq and Iran enjoys widespread support in Congress where opposition Republicans have challenged President Bill Clinton's foreign policy objectives for Bosnia, Russia and China. The administration maintains that Iraq constitutes a military threat to the region even though the Pentagon was forced to admit last month that its fears of a repeat of the 1990 Kuwaiti invasion were unfounded. The Defence Department said its satellites had detected irregular movements in Iraqi bases but later admitted that it could not say with certainty that an invasion was being planned. Michael Fisenstadt, a senior fellow of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, says the United States has adopted a "better safe than sorry" approach to Iraq since the 1991 Gulf war. Washington has boosted its military presence in the region by persuading Qatar to accept the deployment of a 4,500-strong brigade that was to reinforce a first contingent of similar strength in Kuwait. The United States is seeking a third base in the region but Saudi Arabia has so far refused to take in additional U.S. forces. "We also rattle the sabre to encourage unrest," says Mr. Fisenstadt. But the United States is trying to "get rid of Saddam Hussein without destroying the government structure," he adds.

Financial Markets

Currency	New York Close 12/10/95	New York Close 11/10/95
Sterling Pound	1.5770	1.5740
Deutsche Mark	1.4172	1.4265
Swiss Franc	1.1485	1.1545
French Franc	4.9560	4.9620
Japanese Yen	100.15	100.97
European Currency Unit	1.2914**	1.2928

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.62	5.62	5.62
Sterling Pound	6.60	6.66	6.62	6.75
Deutsche Mark	3.78	3.61	3.61	3.61
Swiss Franc	1.93	2.06	2.06	2.06
French Franc	5.68	5.68	5.62	5.62
Japanese Yen	0.25	0.12	0.12	0.18
European Currency Unit	5.56	5.56	5.62	5.56

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	354.75	7.50	Silver	5.39	0.180

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7120	0.7140
Sterling Pound	1.1202	1.1258
Deutsche Mark	0.4954	0.5009
Swiss Franc	0.6141	0.6172
French Franc	0.1454	0.1441
Japanese Yen	0.7056	0.7091
Dutch Guilder	0.4452	0.4474
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0444	0.0446
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8720	1.8860
Lebanese Lira	0.043550	0.044525
Saudi Riyal	0.1595	0.1910
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3030	2.3610
Qatari Riyal	0.1944	0.1956
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2180
Omani Riyal	1.8430	1.6500
UAE Dirham	0.1944	0.1943
Greek Drachma	0.2945	0.3275
Cypriot Pound	1.5225	1.5940

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Furnished Apartment For Rent
In Um Uthaina, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, ground floor, telephone. Other apartments and villas.
Furnished/unfurnished for rent or sale.
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel: 810605, 810608, 810620

A SECURE Hotel Sweflyeh
Turino
Flat O.Tel
SECURITY
HOSPITALITY
GASTRONOMY
All Suites Hotel
Flat O.Tel
الجميع المنفعة الفندقية
863944 - 816690

Cheers Cafe
Hamburgers & Pizzas
ELITE CAFE Sweflyeh
816690
At Turino

STUDIO HAIG
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:
• JUMBO photo size 30% larger
• Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm
Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Swedish tel: 823891

SANABEL REAL ESTATE
FOR RENT
Deluxe Villas & Apartments in Amman
For further details please call
Tel. 864230
Fax. 864231

MING-SHING Chinese Restaurant
The Best Cooking, Best Service, Best Atmosphere in Amman
Deir Ghar - American Embassy Str. near Baytuna Housing Estate
Open from: 12 noon - 3:30 p.m. 6:30 - 11:30 p.m.

NOUROZ Restaurant
European Steaks & Chicken
Middle Eastern Grills
Pizza & Snacks
Hamburgers
Mazza, Salads
Angels
Tel: 642830
Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle
MARKING DISTANCE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL

Teppanyaki Sashimi Sushi
For Res. 812997 - 814118
Mecca St. Daoud Center

CRYSTAL
Quality Furnished Suites
One and Two Bedrooms
Reasonable Rates For Short or Long Stay
5th Circle - 692672

La Coquette RESTAURANT
Cuisine Française
SPECIAL OFFER BUSINESS LUNCH DAILY
CANDLE DINNER, LIVE MUSIC NIGHTLY
Shmeisani - Near Babicha
Tel. 680093

CROWN HOTEL
"INDOOR HEATED SWIMMING POOL"
"SAUNA & JACUZZI"
"FITNESS ROOM"
"SQUASH COURT"
TEL 758180
SALES OFFICE 605843 - 600157
RADIO & TV STATION RD.

EURO DOLLAR RENT A CAR
Make Car Rental Simple
Shmeisani
Tel: 693399

AVIS RENT A CAR
when you pick up your keys
We try harder
Tel. 699420

For Rent
Deluxe Furnished and Unfurnished
Villas apartments and office Space
To Suit all Budgets
681113 688816
For Rent - For Rent

Indurain set for record attempt

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Miguel Indurain and his team feel they've found the perfect combination of technology, training, and timing. With it they plan to shatter one of cycling's most coveted records.

Indurain, the reigning five-time Tour de France champ, will try to break the one-hour distance record in this high Andean city on a space-age bike designed specifically for the attempt.

Indurain, 31, a lanky Spaniard with a quiet demeanor, will mount the bike on Sunday to try to better the mark of 55.291 kilometres set by Tony Rominger of Switzerland on Nov. 5, 1994.

Indurain's goal is not just to break the record, but shatter it. His team says he can add 1,400 metres to Rominger's mark.

The frame of his bike, the "Espada 95," (or "Sword 95") weighs just 1.97 kilograms, about 40 per cent lighter than most professional bicycles.

The front is dimpled like a golf ball to create a symmetrical airflow. Indurain will also be helped by the thin, less resistant air of Bogota,

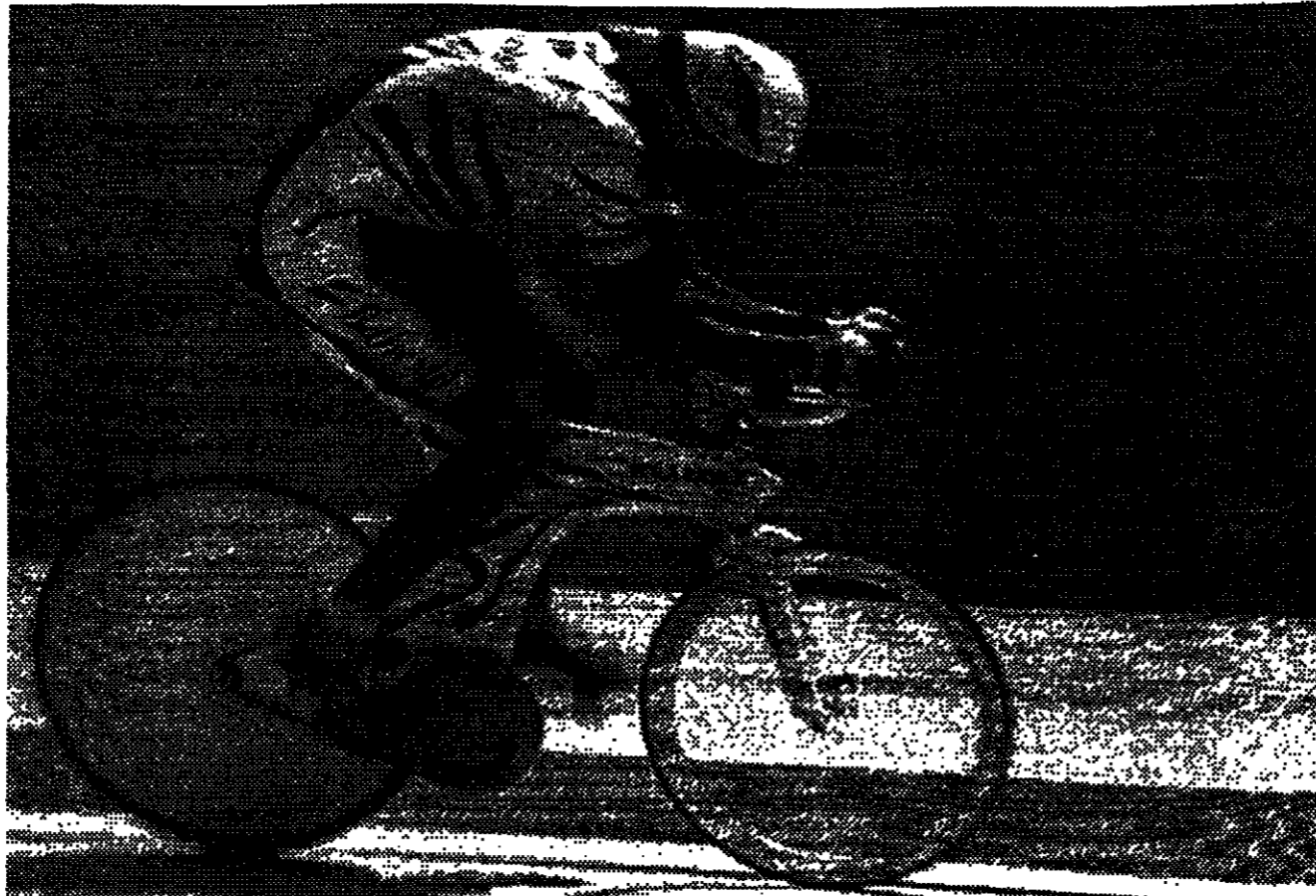
which is perched on an Andean plateau nearly 2,600 metres above sea level. "I am well prepared and enthusiastic," Indurain told reporters.

Indurain has risen at dawn most mornings this week to practice at the 333.33-metre Luis Carlos Galan Velodrome track, considered one of the world's fastest after cyclists broke records in five events at the world championships there last month.

As the streaks past the grandstands, the bands of yellow, red, and blue on his bike's white frame become a blur. Sometimes he rides alongside his younger brother, Prudencio, also a professional cyclist, or teams with French cyclist Jeanie Longo, who is training for an attempt at the women's hour distance record early next week.

Indurain's only enemy in the open-air track is the wind. He plans to make his record breaking attempt between 5-8 a.m. Sunday (1000-1300GMT), when the weather is usually calmest.

"If it's windy, there's almost no chance to break the record," he said.



Spanish cyclist Miguel Indurain trains for his attempt to break the world cycling hour record at Bogota (Reuters photo)

Calculators at the ready for the runners cup

LONDON (AP) — It will take a calculator to figure out which countries qualify for the European Soccer Championships.

Spain and Russia know they've qualified. The Swiss are celebrating that they have made it to the finals for the first time. Bulgaria and Germany are sure they can't be caught, and Scotland's fans already are packing their bags for the trip across the border to England.

But UEFA's complicated qualification procedure means that most teams won't know until the last kick of the last game whether they are going to the championships or not.

In the interest of fairness, Europe's soccer authority has introduced a series of mind-boggling criteria to determine which teams advance.

Each of the eight group winners go through but even deciding them isn't exactly straightforward.

If the top two finish level on points, they are separated on the basis of the results of their head-to-head games. If, for example, the Turks win their final game against Sweden, they will tie with Switzerland atop group three with 17 points and the positions will depend on how they fared against each other.

The problem is, the Swiss won 2-1 at Turkey and the Turks won 2-1 at Switzerland. Goal difference in those two games is the next stage, but they both ended 3-3. The next decider is based on the number of goals scored on the road in those games. Each scored two.

Only then does it go to goal difference from all the qualifying games.

If the Turks win in Sweden and push Switzerland into

second place on goal difference, the Swiss will hope to be one of the six best runners-up, who also qualify.

With 17 points from eight games, that looks likely. But it's not as simple as that.

In this situation, UEFA has decided that the results against the lowest teams in each division should not count. The reasoning behind this, said a UEFA spokesman, is that some teams could try to unfairly manufacture a high-scoring victory over one of the minnows to improve its goal difference right at the end of the qualifying stage.

Instead, to decide which are the best runners-up in the eight groups, only the games involving the top four are taken into account.

But the top four won't be decided until the final games.

In Switzerland's case, its results against Turkey (a win and a loss) will be included. But the final positions of Sweden, Hungary and Iceland, won't be known until Nov. 15. Iceland can move up from last place by winning at Hungary.

That means that the Swiss can't yet work out exactly how their standing relates to the other group runners-up. Taking the current standings, this is how the second place teams relate in terms of results against teams one, three and four.

France has seven points, Denmark 11, Switzerland 11, Italy seven, Czech Republic eight, Ireland seven, Bulgaria 10 and Scotland 11.

Those figures would put the Danes, Swiss, Scotland, Bulgaria and the Czechs into the finals with the French, Italians and Irish fighting it out for the final two places.

Manning joins Phoenix Suns

PHOENIX (AP) — The Phoenix Suns signed unrestricted free agent Danny Manning to a six-year, guaranteed contract Thursday, taking a chance that Manning's surgically repaired knees will last until he's at least 35.

Manning, who played in 46 games last season before he tore a ligament Feb. 6, also was allowed to buy one share of the limited partnership that will run the Arizona Diamondbacks, a 1998 baseball expansion team.

Suns President Jerry Colangelo, the managing partner of the baseball team, said the \$5 million share was a separate arrangement.

Terms of the contract, which could run seven years with an option, were not disclosed, but it was believed to be worth between \$6 million and \$8 million a year.

Ron Grinker, Manning's agent, said the deal was better than a seven-year, \$35 million offer Manning turned

down in the summer of 1994 to join the Suns.

Last year, Phoenix was able to squeeze out just \$1 million under the salary cap to sign the 6-foot-10 forward, the No. 1 pick in the 1988 draft, but Manning accepted with the understanding that he would be well-compensated in the future.

Grinker said there was no fear when Manning's knee blew out, because he trusted Colangelo to fulfill his promise.

Manning said he won't return until at least January, but "the bottom line for me is that I can't wait to get back on the court."

The two-time all-star averaged 17.9 points, 6 rebounds and 3.3 assists last season and shot 54 per cent, which was ninth in the NBA.

Manning joined the Suns on Sept. 8, 1994. He played five-plus seasons with the Clippers before they traded him to Atlanta on Feb. 24, 1994.

World Cup qualifying terms approved

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — FIFA's World Cup Committee on Friday gave conditional approval to all five regional confederations' qualifying procedures for the 1998 World Cup, including South America's single league format involving all nine entrants.

The approval of Conmebol's procedure was warmly welcomed by the South American Confederation in Asuncion, Paraguay. Spokesman for the South American Confederation Nestor Benitez said they had achieved an important "political victory" by getting FIFA to accept the league format.

South American Football Confederation General Secretary Eduardo de Luca said: "For sport, the new system is fairer, because it guarantees that the four best teams will qualify for the World Cup finals," he told the Associated Press.

"Economically, it will bring in much more revenue from ticket sales and TV rights, because each team will play 16 matches instead of 6."

Instead of the usual two- or three-group system, the nine South American hopefuls — not including Brazil which qualifies automatically as host — will play every other nation in the confederation at

home and away with the top four finishers advancing to the 32-nation finals.

The change is the third time that South America has altered its proposal for the 1998 World Cup. For the 1994 World Cup they had two groups, one of four teams and one of five and in 1990 there were three qualifying groups.

At a meeting of the bureau of the FIFA Organising Committee of the World Cup, the bureau discussed the proposals from each of the continental confederations and approved them all subject to confirmation by the full FIFA organising committee at its meeting in Paris on Dec. 10.

If formally approved, the 50 European nations would be divided among nine groups with the group winners and five best second-placed teams qualifying for the World Cup finals along with host France.

Concacaf will have two six-team semifinal league-play groups, three of which from

each will advance to a final league group. The top three advance.

In Africa, after preliminary rounds winnow the field to 20, there will be five groups of four from which the group winners advance.

Asia will be split into three geographic regions for early qualifying from which eight teams will qualify for a final eight-team group. The top three will automatically qualify for the World Cup finals with the fourth-place team playing off against the Oceania winner for another spot.

Oceania will be divided into two five-team groups with the top two in each advancing to a semifinal round. The eventual champion will enter the playoff against the fourth-placed Asian team.

As of Friday, 169 teams, including Brazil and France, had entered for the World Cup. The qualifying draw is scheduled for Dec. 12 in Paris.

No stopping Newcastle

LONDON (AFP) — Newcastle stayed top of the English Premiership on Saturday after winning a five-goal thriller against Queen Park Rangers (QPR), while Manchester United moved into second place after their derby against City.

Newcastle striker Les Ferdinand returned to QPR and scored a beautiful goal, but his former club appear to have found a ready-made replacement in Daniele Dichio, scorer of both Rangers' goals.

Dichio gave his side a 1-0 lead with a 15-yard header on the stroke of half-time. It was cancelled out by Keith Gillespie in the 46th minute with a spectacular header from a David Ginola cross which hit the post and bar before going in.

Barely 10 minutes later, Ferdinand latched onto Warren Barton's 50 yard pass. He outpaced best friend Danny Maddis and rifled an unstoppable left footed shot into the net. Dichio got his second, a header from four yards, from a Trevor Sinclair cross to give him his seventh goal in six games.

Newcastle's victory came from a dreadful error by Welsh international Karl Ready. He played a backpass ignorant of the fact that his American goalkeeper Jurgen Sommer had come out of his goal. Gillespie latched onto it and slid the ball home.

Manchester United, without Eric Cantona who failed a fitness test, the second four points behind after winning a disappointing Manchester derby 1-0, their fifth successive derby victory.

United's hero was Paul Scholes with his seventh goal of the campaign. His unopposed header from a Ryan Giggs corner should have been added to by Andy Cole, who missed three golden opportunities in the last 10 minutes.

Arsenal, winning their first match at Elland Road since 1980, convincingly disposed of Leeds United 3-0.

Leeds United's goalkeeper John Lukic, playing his 400th game for the Yorkshire club, gifted the first goal to Paul Merseon who scored from 35 yards just before half-time after Lukic's dreadful clearance went straight to him.

Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp made it 2-0 in the 55th minute after a Steve Bould flick and Ian Wright, who had been stretched off at half-time, made it 3-0 in the 85th minute a twist and turn followed by a magnificent chip over Lukic.

Aston Villa lost for only the second time in 29 Villa Park meetings with Chelsea, and lost their eight match unbeaten run to boot.

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT
Independent first floor apartment with garden and independent garage, consisting of 2 bedrooms, spacious kitchen guest room, sitting & dining room, maid's room, glassed-in veranda, independent central heating with telephone. Very good furniture.
Please call: 665711, 664256

WHY NOT ??

NEW YEAR HURGHADA
DECEMBER 30 - JANUARY 02
HURGHADA MARIOTT RESORT
DIRECT WITH ROYAL JORDANIAN
AND MORE

Mariott
HOTELS - RESORTS - SUITES

ROYAL JORDANIAN
الملكة الأردنية

Amiral

FOR RESERVATION CALL: AMIRAL TOURS TEL 862218
NEW YEAR NEW YEAR NEW YEAR NEW YEAR

The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation and The Embassy of Switzerland in Jordan present

**SWISS PIANIST
WERNER BÄRTSCHI**
in a
Piano recital

Monday, 16 October 1995
8:00 p.m.
Amman Baccalaureate
School Theatre

In the program pieces
by Chopin, Prokofiev,
Schumann and others.

Tickets available from:
Alahla-Abela Superstore, tel. 688...
Amman Baccalaureate School, tel. 47191
Babiche, tel. 661322
Freddy for Music, tel. 69269...
Music Box, tel. 815745
Romero, tel. 644227
The National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

A Cultural Presentation of Pro Helvetia Arts Council of Switzerland

Ticket price: JD 7

zepler

For free delivery of tickets to your home or office, please call Citixpress tel: 615519

51 62 50

TAHA & QASHOU

MECCA ROAD

GARDEN CENTER

TULIPS - DAFFODILS - HYDRANGEAS
ANEMONES - FREESIAS - AMARYLLIS
ORCHIDS - ROS - RHODANDELUS

Don't Say You Don't Have It!

TURINO HOTEL - SWEIYEH - Fax 863 051

JOB OPPORTUNITY
A LEADING COMPANY DEALING WITH FOODSTUFF HAS A VACANCY FOR A SALES REPRESENTATIVE WITH THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:-
- GOOD COMMAND OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE.
- 3 YEARS EXPERIENCE.
- MUST OWN A CAR.
APPLICANTS PLEASE SEND C.V. TO:
THE GENERAL MANAGER
P.O. BOX: 6141 AMMAN - JORDAN

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHAHIN & TAMMAM HERSHI

PLAY OR DEFEND?

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
A 8 6
K A 10 5
Q 8 7
A J 9 7 5

EAST
A 4 3
Q 9 8 7
Q J 8 5
K 10 6 4 2

SOUTH
K Q J
Q K 6 4 2
K 7 6 4
K 5

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♠ Pass 1♠ Pass
2♠ Pass 3NT Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

If you like testing your skill playing and defending, you could do a lot worse than get a copy of *On the Other Hand: A Bridge from East to West*, by Martin Hoffman and Keith W. Sander (C & T Bridge Supplies, 135pp, paperback. Available from The Bridge World, 33 W. 84th St., New York, N.Y., 10026. \$11.95 including postage and handling.) The 64 hands will test most players. Here's an example.

We would clearly prefer a rebid of one no trump by North, but that would not alter the final contract and a diamond lead would be unlikely, so declarer would be facing the same problem. South receives the lead of the jack of spades. Would you rather play or defend three no trump?

It might seem that the contract is easy. Win the queen in hand, cash the king of clubs and continue the suit. When West produces the queen, allow it to win. With the king of diamonds safe from attack, you are assured of three spade tricks, two hearts and four clubs.

However, West can justify the queen of clubs under the king, and now there's no way to nine tricks without letting East gain the lead for a diamond lead through the king. Down one.

There is a counter. Declarer can win the first trick in dummy and lead a club, inserting the eight when East plays low. Is this the best line? We'll let the mathematical class debate the exact percentages, but it does deliver the contract on the actual line of the cards.

A pretty collection of hands, nicely presented.

CINEMA PHILADELPHIA TEL: 634144	CINEMA PLAZA TEL: 699238	CINEMA CONCORD TEL: 677420	AMMOUN THEATRE TEL: 618274 - 618275	Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155
			MUSA HIJAZIN "Sumaa" in Hi Citizen daily at 8:30 p.m. Written & directed by Mohammad Shawaqfeh	Presents "Peace Oh Peace" in English every Saturday Show starts at 8:30 p.m. For reservation call 625155
Robert Redford, Demi Moore & Woody Harrelson Indecent Proposal Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Sandra Bullock & Bill Pullman in While You Were Sleeping Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD "1" Adel Imam & Yusra Birds of the Darkness (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:45 CONCORD "2" Arnold Schwarzenegger in Conan The Barbarian Shows: 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:15		

ators ady for ers cup

second place on goal difference, the Swiss will have the time of the winners-up who also have a goal difference of 12 points from the games, that looks likely to be the case. In this situation, the Swiss have decided that the best way to win the cup is to win the lowest team in the group. The reasoning behind this is that some teams could be in a position to win a high scoring game over one of the runners-up, but not the other. This is a possibility that the Swiss have taken into account.

But the top four were decided until the final game. In Switzerland's case, results against Turkey, and a loss will be decisive. But the final position, Sweden, Hungary and the Netherlands, will be known in November. The final place can move from last place to win, Hungary.

That means that the Swiss can't yet work out how their standing relative to the other group runners-up. This is how the Swiss have to wait until the final results are in to see if they can move up.

ig joins x Suns

down in the summer of 1986 to join the Suns. Last year, Phoenix was able to acquire out his million under the salary cap. The Suns, in the draft, got Malone with the understanding that he would be a complimentary piece to the team. Malone's bid was not because he had a chance to fulfill his dream.

BRIDGE

There is a lot of talk about the bridge game, but it is not as simple as it seems. In this situation, the Swiss have decided that the best way to win the cup is to win the lowest team in the group. The reasoning behind this is that some teams could be in a position to win a high scoring game over one of the runners-up, but not the other. This is a possibility that the Swiss have taken into account.

Hisham's Theatre
TEL: 625155

Presents
Oh Peace
every Saturday
starts at 8:30 p.m.
reservation call 625155

Ioka tries to sweep 3 titles

OSAKA, Japan (AP) — Japanese boxer Hiroki Ioka will attempt to become the first Japanese — and the first in Asia — to win world titles in three different divisions when he challenges World Boxing Association (WBA) flyweight champion Saen Sor Ploenchit of Thailand next Tuesday.

A No. 3 contender in the WBA rankings, Ioka clinched his first world title, the World Boxing Council strawweight, by beating Thailand's Mai Thonburit in October 1987.

He took his second world title in December 1991 when he earned a decision over WBA junior flyweight champion Yu Myung-Woo of South Korea.

Tuesday's 12-round bout will be Saen's sixth defence of the title he grabbed from Venezuela's David Griman in February 1994.

It also will be Ioka's second crack at the 50.8 kilogramme title. In June 1993, the 26-year-old Ioka fought against then-champion Griman, but lost to him with an 8th-round technical knockout.

Ioka has a record of 27 victories, including 14 knockouts, against four defeats and one draw in his pro career.

Spectrum takes

Champion Stakes

NEWMARKET, England (R) — Irish 2,000 Guineas winner Spectrum, who finished lame in the Epsom Derby, bounced back to winning group one form on Saturday with a comfortable victory in the Champion Stakes.

Taking up the running with a furlong (200 metres) left, Spectrum, a 5-1 chance ridden by John Reid, strode clear up the finishing hill to win by two lengths from Riyadhian (7-2), the Mount of Richard Quinn.

Third place went to 25-1 outsider Montjoy, ridden by Pat Fiddery. Bahr, twice a winner at Ascot, started 5-2 favourite but could only finish fifth of the eight runners.

Trainer Peter Chapple-Hyam, who won the Champion Stakes with Rodrigo de Triano in 1992 when ridden by Lester Piggott, said: "After the derby it was touch and go whether Spectrum would race again."

But the colt recovered superbly, showing his well-being with a close up second last month to Epsom Derby runner-up Tamsire in the group three Prix du Prince d'Orange at Longchamp.

Tamsire was also in Saturday's field but on better weight terms Spectrum found no difficulty reversing the form. Tamsire, who started at 11-4, finished fourth.



Scottish boxer Jim Murray is stretchered from the ring after falling unconscious in the 12th round of his

fight against British Bantamweight champion Drew Docherty (Reuters photo)

Boxer critical after surgery

GLASGOW, Scotland (R) — Scottish boxer James Murray was in a critical condition on Saturday after having a blood clot removed from his brain.

The fighter was rushed to hospital after being knocked unconscious by British bantamweight champion Drew Docherty in the 12th round of a title match which then erupted into a riot.

Doctors removed a subdural haematoma blood clot from the left side of Murray's brain and said the following 24 hours would be a crucial time for the boxer, who had not regained consciousness since Friday evening.

Five fans were treated in hospital for injuries sustained in the rioting which followed the bout.

Neurosurgeon Garth Cruickshank, who operated

on the 25-year-old Murray at a Glasgow hospital, said: "The operation went very satisfactorily."

Rab Hide, clinical director of neurological services at the hospital, said: "In this particular type of clot you can remove the clot but you are left, one, with the effects of the pressure which was there before and, secondly, with the brain swelling that can occur as a result of the direct injury to the brain rather than just the clot itself."

"This is what we are trying to treat now."

Murray appeared to be heading for victory until he crashed to the canvas in the final round.

As doctors and officials struggled to revive him, rival fans in the four-star hotel where the fight was held began rioting.

Glasses, bottles and chairs were thrown in Docherty's direction. Television pictures showed members of the crowd fleeing in panic.

Five fans were taken to hospital. Police said they would be holding an inquiry into the trouble.

British Board of Boxing Control General Secretary John Morris, who was at the ringside, said: "It was one of the most disgusting scenes I've seen, particularly when there's an injured boxer lying on the floor."

Murray, a former Scottish amateur champion, turned professional in 1993. He had stopped four of his last six opponents and officials said he had been promised a shot at the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) title if he could beat Docherty.



New Zealand's Possum Bourne and Tony Sircombe in their Subaru Impreza get flagged off at the official start of the Hong Kong-Beijing Rally 1995 at Hong Kong's Stonecutter Island. Bourne, the rally win-



Michael Chang

Chang, Philippoussis advance to Seiko final

TOKYO (R) — Top seed Michael Chang and Australian teenager Mark Philippoussis, who has upset three seeds on his way through the tournament, won their semi-finals on Saturday to set up a final clash in the Seiko Super Tennis Tournament.

The American Chang, ranked fifth in the world, beat Sweden's Henrik Holm 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, and Philippoussis topped Germany's Hendrik Dreckmann 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

Chang fell behind Holm, ranked 128, who captured the first set, with the aid of eight aces.

But Holm showed signs of tiring in the second and third sets, repeatedly missing critical break point opportunities.

Philippoussis, who is likely to move into the top 40 from his current 60th ranking after Saturday's win, used a punishing serve and confident net play to stop Dreckmann in one hour and 39 minutes.

The up-and-coming Australian won 44 of 50 first

serve points and saved five of six break points, suffering his first break in the tournament in the ninth game of the second set.

Chang, who won last year's Seiko Super Tournament, called the 19-year-old Philippoussis, ranked 80, a "dangerous" opponent for his powerful serve.

"Against Mark I'm going to definitely have to return quite well tomorrow," said Chang. "On the days that he's making his shots he's a very tough player to beat."

In their only previous meeting, Chang beat Philippoussis in straight sets on clay in Rome earlier this year.

"People think Michael Chang is expected to win, and that takes the pressure off me," said Philippoussis. "That's when I do well — when people don't expect me to do well."

He has knocked out fifth seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden, 11th seed Brett Steven of New Zealand, and fourth seed Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands in the tournament so far.

St. George's University now offers the following degree programs:

Doctor of Medicine (MD)

This program is for students who have a bachelor's degree with a solid foundation in the biomedical sciences.

Premedical Program

The first year of the three-year continuum in premedicine leading to the Doctor of Medicine Program is designed for students presenting achievement at the Ordinary Level (or the equivalent).

Students presenting credentials such as the Matriculation Certificate in South Africa will be assessed for the second year.

Candidates need Advanced Levels in sciences and math, or the equivalent, to be considered for the third year.

BSc Programs

Two bachelor's degree programs in Medical Technology and Basic Medical Sciences are available. All courses are in English. Our campuses are located in Grenada and St. Vincent, with affiliated hospitals in the United States, the United Kingdom and the Caribbean.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEDICAL STUDENTS. AND WE'RE LOOKING EVERYWHERE.

The best candidates for physicians are bright, determined, strong, empathetic. And we're determined to find them. St. George's University now offers a premedical course leading into the School of Medicine as well as independent baccalaureate degree programs. The courses include varying points of entry, depending on your educational background and achievements. If you believe you can meet our standards for excellence, contact: Office of Admissions, Dept. AJO6, St. George's University School of Medicine, c/o the North American Correspondent, Medical School Services, Ltd. One East Main Street, Bay Shore, New York 11706-6399 516-665-8500 • Fax: 516-665-5590 • Email: sgu_info@msl.mst.com Look for us on the World Wide Web in late Fall 1995.

St. George's University
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Shaping the world...one mind at a time

The RIGHT MEAT

ASK FOR THE NEW, YOUNG AND TENDER AUSTRALIAN LAMB

We have a complete commitment towards our consumer. All our lambs are hormone and disease free, raised in Australia's lush, green pastures. With our new, young, lean and tender Australian Lamb, you will certainly taste the difference.

Conforms To Ministry of Supply Specifications

Real Australian Halal
Finest Quality Meat

U.N. and U.S. at odds over Iraq monitoring

'Sanctions unlikely to be eased before one year'

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United States has called for an upgrading of U.N. surveillance systems in Iraq, but the official in charge of ridding Baghdad of weapons of mass destruction said his team deserved a Nobel prize.

"If there were such a thing as a Nobel prize for arms control our scientists should have this. It was an impressive performance," said Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission. "I see no reason for a major retooling."

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright told reporters the year-old monitoring system to make sure Iraq did not acquire new weapons was "inadequate" and said it had to be "adjusted and upgraded" in light of massive new revelations of past and possible current arms programmes.

Ms. Albright spoke after a closed-door council discussion on a major six-month written report from Mr. Ekeus, his first since Baghdad released half a million pages of documents in August (see page 2).

This followed the defection to Jordan of Hussein Kamel, a senior Iraqi weapons official with considerable know-

ledge of biological, chemical and ballistic arms Iraq had hidden from the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Commission, which is in charge of nuclear materials.

Mr. Ekeus, at a news conference, said General Kamel had told him one reason he defected was that his position became "untenable" because of the commission's detection of weapons.

Ms. Albright complimented Mr. Ekeus' group but said the new information would need more work on the monitoring system.

Mr. Ekeus said there would have to be adjustments but disputed claims that the system of cameras and inspectors was not working adequately.

"The monitoring system has demonstrated its strength," he said. "You have to recall that it was the monitoring system that detected the existence of a biological weapons programme in Iraq. It was not voluntary."

Mr. Ekeus' report, released on Wednesday, said he was still uncertain whether Iraq produced more ballistic missile engines than it had declared. Whether it still had

some VX nerve gas ingredients for chemical weapons and whether it had disposed them.

He said that during his last visit to Baghdad in September he was shown what he was told was a dump site of destroyed missile warheads but when his inspectors investigated they found this was not the case.

The United States as well as Britain feel vindicated for their tough positions in the council on the scope of Iraqi weapons, which are tied to lifting the oil embargo part of the sanctions imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Ms. Albright would not give a time frame for when she thought the council would seriously consider easing sanctions.

But U.S. officials said that a re-evaluation of previously hidden Iraqi weapons stockpiles would take at least one year and that during that time, sanctions banning Baghdad's oil from world markets would be maintained.

"It's certainly not weeks or months," a spokesman for U.S. Ambassador Albright said. "It is difficult to imagine Iraq being able to establish its

credibility in a year."

After discussing the report with the Security Council, Mr. Ekeus told journalists he feared Baghdad may still have chemical and biological warheads, and that components Iraq imported for building missiles could allow their conversion to long-range use.

"We have concerns that such weapons remain," Mr. Ekeus said. "I wouldn't say it is probable, but there is a possibility; we have to investigate."

A regular review of sanctions takes place every two months, the next one in November, but the U.S. officials said a reevaluation resulting in their being lifted could not occur until Iraq meets the conditions imposed on it by the resolutions.

The weapons programme poses "a very major threat to the region," British Ambassador John Weston asserted. U.N. weapons monitors have said it could take months to verify the new material.

"We are going to have to require from the Iraqis that this time they really do come clean," Mr. Weston said. But "it will not be or quite a long time."



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker is briefed on Saturday on facilities being prepared for participants in and journalists covering the Oct. 29-31 Middle East and North Africa economic summit in Amman (Petra photo)

Higher committee reviews facilities for MENA summit

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Saturday urged the higher steering committee supervising preparations for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference later this month to mobilise the potentials and coordinate the efforts of all groups and sub-committees and facilitate measures to ensure the success of the conference.

Addressing a meeting of the committee, the prime minister underlined the need to offer the best facilities for the local and foreign media to enable them to cover the various sessions of the conference.

He also urged the local media to convey the Kingdom's best image and achievements in the most objective manner.

At the meeting, held at the Prime Ministry in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Moham-

mad, His Majesty King Hussein's military secretary, arrangements and preparations carried out by the various sub-committees were reviewed.

Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb presented an outline about these preparations. The participants in the three-day event will hold seven main sessions, 13 working sessions and 18 subsequent meetings to present the projects and eight workshops.

The minister said that until Oct. 10 the committee had listed 173 speakers representing 29 nations and 12 international agencies. The number could rise in the coming days, he said.

The number of participants could reach 900 while up to 400 journalists are also expected to attend, he said.

The private sector has prepared 136 projects worth \$1.2 billion covering industrial,

agricultural and tourism fields.

Deputy Premier and Information Minister Khaled Karaki said journalists could use eight information offices at the main hotels and two at the airports in addition to a main press centre.

The higher steering committee groups the ministers of education, information, finance, industry and trade, post and communications, interior and tourism along with other officials.

Following the meeting the prime minister accompanied by Prince Talal and the committee members, made a tour of the various facilities for the summit participants and journalists and inspected the main operations room, the Royal Cultural Central, and the Palace of Culture.

The prime minister urged all the concerned parties to speed up work so that Amman can be ready for the summit conference in time.

Maid saved from execution as UAE family abandons demand

DUBAI (Agencies) — Filipina maid Sarah Balabagan was saved from a firing squad on Saturday when the family of the man she killed dropped its demand for her execution, officials and the family said.

Ms. Balabagan was condemned to death last month when a United Arab Emirates (UAE) court convicted her of the premeditated murder of her UAE employer Mohammad Abdullah Al Baloushi, rejecting her claim that he had raped her.

"I just told the court I don't want the death sentence. I don't want her to be killed," Baloushi's 24-year-old son Faraj said. "Sure it was a difficult decision but what can I do?"

UAE officials, who, in line with Islamic law, had urged the Baloushi family to consider forgiving Ms. Balabagan, said he went to the appeals court in the oasis city of Al 'Ain on Saturday to withdraw his family's demand for her execution.

He said he agreed with the court to accept 150,000 dirhams (\$40,000) in "blood money" in compensation for his 85-year-old father's

death.

The decision means the court will automatically drop the death penalty imposed on Sept. 16, although a court could sentence Ms. Balabagan to a term in prison, an official said, asking not to be named.

Officials said the Baloushi family decided to drop their demand for Ms. Balabagan's execution after UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan urged them to forgive her in accordance with Islamic principles.

"The decision came after the private and personal efforts of Sheikh Zayed who urged them to act in accordance with Islam," said an official.

"He who forgives someone in Islam is rewarded by God," he added.

On Thursday, Philippines Ambassador Roy Seneres told Reuters the parents of the maid will ask the family of the slain man to show mercy and drop their demand for her execution.

The case has aroused high emotions in the Philippines after another Filipina maid, Flor Contemplacion, was

hanged in Singapore earlier this year for murder.

On Saturday Ambassador Seneres issued a statement on behalf of himself and Ms. Balabagan's family, thanking Sheikh Zayed "for his kindness and compassion."

"I have always stated that I have the highest confidence in the judicial system of the United Arab Emirates," the statement said.

It was not known whether Ms. Balabagan would be allowed to go free.

Legal sources said that she was likely to get one to seven years in prison.

Ms. Balabagan's appeal hearing, which opened Monday, was adjourned till Oct. 30 after she repeated that she had killed Baloushi in self-defence when he allegedly tried to rape her. Court documents showed Baloushi had been stabbed 34 times.

Philippines embassy officials have said that Ms. Balabagan's parents, who arrived in the UAE ahead of her appeal hearing, were willing to meet Baloushi's seven children to ask for forgiveness.

It was not known whether a meeting had taken place.

Fierce fighting around Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — Fierce fighting between government troops and opposition Taliban rebels on the southern outskirts of war-weary Kabul continued for the fourth straight day with neither side making any significant gains.

Government forces pounded the southern Risikhor hills to try to dislodge the Taliban, who overran key government posts earlier this week to reach the outskirts of the capital.

Talibans were holding on, but government sources said fresh troops were being deployed to the southern outskirts.

The Taliban, made up of Islamic religious students turned guerrilla fighters, turned President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his military chief, Ahmad Shah Masoud, to resign and turn over the capital to them.

Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Masoud have refused. In Peshawar, Pakistan, Taliban leaders accused Iran of allowing its border to be used for an armed incursion into the western province of Herat.

"We want good relations with Iran, but if such attacks continue, the responsibility would be Iran's," a spokesman for Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar said.

The spokesman was speaking to reporters in Peshawar by satellite telephone from the southern city of Kandahar, a Taliban stronghold.

He said the intruders from Iran had entered at the border crossing of Islam Gala on Saturday. Opened fire and then fled back into Iran. There was no word on any casualties or damage in the alleged raid.

The Taliban captured Herat province from the government on Sept. 5, forcing its Governor Ismail Khan and his fighters to flee to Iran.

In Kabul, a Defence Ministry official said earlier that pro-government forces had captured all of Herat province except the provincial capital and the road south, in advances from Islam Qala and Ghor province, adjoining Herat to the east.

Lal Mohammad, a Taliban spokesman in Peshawar, said the Taliban had gained ground on the southwestern fringes of Kabul, capturing a former Soviet Scud missile base on a hillside overlooking government-held suburbs.

He said pro-Rabbani fighters had abandoned the strategic Bini Hissar hilltop fort on the southwestern edge of Kabul, but it was not clear if Taliban forces now controlled it.

A government official said the Taliban had pushed into a suburb south of the shattered Darulaman Palace using two tanks and two pickup trucks.

Jospin elected Socialist leader

PARIS (AFP) — Lionel Jospin, the Socialists' defeated presidential candidate earlier this year, was elected party leader Saturday and immediately called on Socialists to rally to win back power from the hapless Gaullists.

Buoyed by an overwhelming 94 per cent backing from his party, Mr. Jospin told a crowd of around 2,000 Socialists at its national convention that the time was ripe to "reconquer" a government which "is collapsing in on itself and suffering an unprecedented crisis of confidence."

"For the Socialist Party comes a time of reconstruction and conquest," Mr. Jospin said after the result of the week-long vote was declared. A total of only 2.7 per cent of party members — who voted in federation meetings Monday and Tuesday — were against him.

He replaces Henri Emmanuelli as first secretary — a position Mr. Jospin first held from 1981 to 1988. The outgoing party leader wished his successor luck and called on the party to courageous and open minded.

Mr. Emmanuelli said the two "fundamental axes" of the party had to be the "unity of the left and priority to social issues."

4 candidates qualify for Algeria election

PARIS (Agencies) — Four candidates have qualified to run in Algeria's presidential poll next month, Algerian state-run radio said on Saturday, quoting an official statement.

Besides the incumbent President Liamine Zeroual, the radio named moderate Islamist intellectual Nouredine Boukrouh, anti-Islamist hawk politician Said Sadi and Muslim fundamentalist leader Sheikh Mahfoud Nahmah.

They received the number of support signatures required to be eligible to run in the Nov. 16 presidential poll, the radio said, quoting a constitutional council statement.

Meanwhile, a leaflet believed issued by an Algerian militant group threatened to carry out more attacks in France and warned the French government against involvement in Algeria.

The statement came from Al Ansar, which is widely considered a mouthpiece for Algeria's hard-line Armed Islamic Group (GIA). It condemned the killing of Khaled Kelkal on Sept. 29 by police outside Lyon, France, and suggested more attacks would follow.

Kelkal "fell as a martyr so that his blood would be a beacon for all those who march on the path of holy war and martyrdom," said the leaflet, quoted Saturday in the Arabic newspaper Al Hayat.

The leaflet said his killing "has initiated the continuity between the martyrs who

passed and those who are coming."

The London-based paper did not say how it obtained the leaflet.

France has been hit by seven bombings or bomb attempts since July 25, when a homemade bomb went off in a subway in the heart of Paris, killing seven people and injuring 84. The latest attack was in Paris on the day Kelkal was buried; 13 were wounded.

Kelkal was France's most wanted man — his fingerprints were found on adhesive tape attaching a detonator to a bomb that failed to explode. The fingerprints were the only solid clue police had.

The GIA, which is fighting to overthrow the Algerian government, claimed responsibility for the series of attacks in a statement distributed to journalists in Cairo on Oct. 7.

The group said it would keep up the attacks to punish France for interfering in Algeria's domestic affairs and because President Jacques Chirac had ignored its call to convert to Islam.

Officials had previously linked the attacks to Muslim militants targeting France for supporting Algeria's military-installed government.

Al Hayat said the newsletter rejected claims by Anwar Haddam, head of the Islamic Salvation Front's (FIS) parliamentary delegation in exile, that the two communities sent to the newsletter were hoaxes.

COLUMN

Shanghai confiscates match-maker's earnings

SHANGHAI (AFP) — The Shanghai Civil Affairs Administration Bureau confiscated the earnings of a Japanese businessman who ran an illegal match-making agency, a newspaper reported. The Xin Min Evening News reported that the bureau ordered Yoshio Suzuki to turn over the 3.15 million Japanese yen (\$31,343) he had earned in eight months of operating the illegal dating service to the state treasury. The report said Mr. Suzuki was also ordered to cease involvement in activities and businesses that contravene China's marriage law and local regulations. Mr. Suzuki had been organising meetings between single Japanese men and Shanghai women between February and September without getting approval to run his dating service.

Dismissed juror poses for Playboy

SANTA CLARITA, California (AP) — A woman who was dismissed from the O. J. Simpson jury after telling the judge "I can't take it anymore" is back in court, this time on a set for a Playboy magazine photo shoot. John Warren, manager of Lindgren Studios, told KABC-TV and KNBC-TV that Playboy booked the studio the day after Simpson was acquitted last week. The \$4,000-per-day studio was overhauled to resemble a courtroom. Mr. Warren said. He wouldn't identify the juror, but the TV stations showed video of a woman they said was Tracy Hampton leaving the studio. The stations said the video was taken after the all-day shoot in Santa Clarita, 40 kilometres north of Los Angeles. Playboy refused to comment. Hampton, a 26-year-old airline flight attendant, was dismissed from the jury May 1 after telling Judge Lance Ito she couldn't take the strain of sequestration.

Boy rescued in Burma's 1st documented kidnapping

RANGOON, Burma (AP) — Police rescued a five-year-old boy and arrested five suspects in the first recorded kidnapping case in modern Burma, the state-owned new Light Of Myanmar reported. The rescue took place on Aug. 16 near Pangsang, 800 kilometres northeast of Rangoon in the remote hills of the Burma-China border. The five-year-old boy, identified only as Hsanti, was reported missing by his father Kyaw Myint on Aug. 5. Two days later he received a ransom note from the kidnappers demanding 400,000 Chinese yuan (\$48,192). On Aug. 12, Kyaw Myint dropped off 60,000 yuan (\$7,228) at a place designated by the kidnappers. He did not inform police of his actions. The kidnappers sent a threatening letter on Aug. 16 demanding the rest of the cash. With the help of Pangsang police, Mr. Kyaw Myint then dropped a bag of counterfeit notes at a designated spot the same day. Ten minutes after the drop, as police lay in wait, two men attempted to pick up the money. One suspect was shot in the leg during a scuffle and apprehended later, while the other escaped. The captured suspect led them to the house where the boy was kept. Police stormed the house, rescuing the boy, nabbing five suspects and retrieving the \$7,228.

Iranian officials deny possession of weapons of mass destruction

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — High-ranking Iranian officials Saturday strongly denied that their country possessed weapons of mass destruction and said Iran's policies might change if Syria signed a peace agreement with Israel.

In a seminar organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, Ahmad Haj Hussein, general director of the Institute for International and Political Studies at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said Iran was not against peace in the region but against the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace process.

"We are not against peace

but this peace is headed by the U.S. and Israel," Mr. Hussein told the Jordan Times. "What have the Palestinians gained so far from the peace process? (The peace process has been beneficial) very much for the Israelis, and very little for the Palestinians."

The issue of Palestinians in the diaspora, for example, has not been solved yet," he added.

Mr. Hussein contended that "positive" change was unlikely for countries in the Middle East and that Arab-Israeli peace would only be temporary.

But if the Syrians come to an agreement with Israel, "we'll express our own ideas. If the situation changes, then

policies change too. We have nothing against" peace, Mr. Hussein said.

Mr. Hussein, who served at the Iranian mission to the U.N. in New York, rejected suggestions that Iran had relations with Israel during the Iraq-Iran war.

He described as false reports published in the New York Times claiming Iranian-Israeli arms trade activities during the war.

Mohammad Ali Imami, an expert in the Gulf affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, described the New York Times as a Zionist newspaper. He lashed out at the presence of American troops in the Gulf saying that U.S.

(Con't. on page 7)